

NEWS

Local kids put the recession center stage



It's official: The United States' economy is in a recession. Just ask any local fourth grader. And while you're at it, ask them about what should be done to stave off the collapse of the "big three" automakers or how to reduce our dependence on foreign fuel. Chances are, they'll have an answer. **12A**

Seniors recall Great Depression era holidays

Amid the current national economic downturn, Crawford County seniors reflected on going through the holidays during the Great Depression. The Great Depression started in the United States on October 29, 1929, after the stock market crash often referred to as Black Tuesday. Families lived under slim and grim circumstances until 1939, when the United States began supporting the Allies in World War II and began preparing to enter the war. **13A**

SPORTS

Ski team hits the hills, gets ready for 2009 season



The Grayling High School ski team — a group that has eight boys and six girls this year — started practicing on Nov. 17, got outside on the ski hills for the first time on Dec. 10, and will compete in its first meet of the season in January. **1B**

INDEX

Business Directory	8-10A
Church Directory	6A
Classifieds	6-8B
Facts & Features	5B
Legal Notices	3-4B
Opinions	4A
Sports	1-3B, 8B
Obituaries	6A

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Crawford County Avalanche

Grayling's Hometown Newspaper Since 1879

75 CENTS

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Crawford County Commission on Aging down to few relocation options

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

Over the last 15 months, the Crawford County Commission on Aging has pared down a list of a half dozen possible new sites for the Grayling Senior Center to a pair of options.

Relocating to the Grayling Fish Hatchery, in a joint venture with the Grayling Fish Hatchery Steering Committee, remains a viable option.

The other possibility is building a new senior center from the ground up. One of the potential locations for the senior center is on just over four acres of property owned by the Carl W. Borchers VFW Post #3736 on Madsen Street. The land was donated to the veteran's organization by the late Beth Seator. The other property, also just over four acres, is located at the intersection of Roberts Road and North Down River Road. The land was sold to

Crawford County when the State of Michigan sold the Grayling Fish Hatchery property in 1995. The county subsequently leased the land to Grayling Charter Township.

The Mayday Windows building was the first option eliminated during the site selection process, since there is no access to city water and sewer. Downtown options, including the former Ben Franklin store and the former Shoppenagon's Motel, were also pulled from the

list. Snyder said the COA Board chose to only study one downtown option. She added that Shoppenagon's is over 30,000 square feet, which is more space than the senior center needs, and officials don't believe they could support and maintain other tenants in the building. Finally, the Grayling Eagles Club, which sits on just over three acres of land, was the last option removed from the list. The

See **CRAWFORD** 19A

Bringing that holiday sound



Grayling Viking Band director Matt Bishop (left) and Grayling High School sophomore Harley Timmons (right) went from business to business last week playing classic holiday tunes. The band is also offering musical holiday "greeting cards" as a fund-raiser for student programs. "I love music pretty much more than anything," Timmons said.

Township tweaks fire department pact

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

As the lawsuit filed by Grayling Charter Township against the City of Grayling reaches its one year mark, township officials tweaked what they call an interim agreement for fire department operations and will send it back to city officials for their review.

Last week, the Grayling Charter Township Board, at its regular monthly meeting and the last meeting of the year, unanimously approved an agreement for fire department operations for the Grayling City/Township Fire Department.

The city and township officials have volleyed contracts containing virtually the same language for over the last three months. In response to a contract approved by the Grayling City Council on Monday, Dec. 16, the township board requested some changes to a pact it sent to the city on Dec. 1.

Township officials reviewed and deliberated on the contract for about an hour. Grayling Charter Township Trustee Linda Munsey said she was concerned with different wording in the contract, such as fixed fees and fixed contributions for fire department operations.

Trustee Dennis Long said he didn't want to split hairs over wording and cause a further break down of negotiations between the municipalities.

See **TOWNSHIP** 18A

Preschoolers party with Santa



From left to right: Brittanie Snyder, Noah Graham, Meghan Antcliff and Anthony McLean spend some time with St. Nick at the American Legion last Saturday. The kids were partaking in the Grayling Co-op Preschool's "Breakfast with Santa" event. "Almost every family from the preschool attended," co-op board member Kirkie Graham said.

We Wish You A Merry Christmas!

Night Before Christmas celebrated



Photos by Dan Sanderson

About 100 children and parents attended the fifth annual Night Before Christmas Celebration at the Devereaux Memorial Crawford County Library on Thursday. Above top, Cole Marsh, age 3, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, who handed out candy canes and copies of the book "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats. Left middle, Anna Fisher, Fred Fisher IV and Anthony Fisher sit next to a snowy scene created in the library's meeting room while holding makeshift snowballs. Below left, Crawford County Library Director Bambi Mansfield played Christmas carols and read Christmas stories to the children. Above, Destiny Schans, age 8, does a stamping craft to help decorate her home for the holidays.

City implements winter burial fees for cemetery

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

Grayling City officials have initiated new winter month burial fees to reflect the cost of labor and materials to prepare graves for interment.

The Grayling City Council, at its regular monthly meeting last week, hiked the fees for winter burials. The change comes after the City of Grayling altered their practice regarding winter burials in an attempt to decrease the emotional toll on families who have lost loved ones.

The fees will cover the cost for City Department of Public Works (DPW) employees and Cemetery Sexton Ben Chouinard to prepare graves for interment. The fee for a weekday winter burial was hiked to \$800, from \$400 for a burial done in spring, summer or fall. The fee for an after hours or weekend winter burial was raised to \$1,000 from \$500 from the regular fee charged at other times of the year.

The cost for a half lot burial, used to bury the remains of a person, infant or small child, was raised from \$200 to \$400 for a weekday burial, and from \$250 to \$500 or an after-hours or weekend burial. Finally, the fee to store a body in the Elmwood Cemetery's mausoleum was set at \$100 for a City of Grayling or Grayling Charter Township resident, \$200 for a resident who did not reside in either municipality and \$300 for a person not intended to be buried in the cemetery. The Elmwood Cemetery is jointly owned and operated by the City of Grayling and Grayling Charter Township.

In August, the city council changed its winter burial policies and said the city would continue to dig graves up until mid-December, until DPW can't do it anymore, and will then start digging graves again early in April. After the change was made, Grayling City Manager David Thayer

said Chouinard attended a state training for cemetery sextons and learned that municipalities are mandated to accommodate families who request a winter burial.

"We may have a rare situation and we have to figure out how to get it done," Thayer said.

Terrie L. Lockwood, the funeral director and co-owner of Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home Inc., requested that the city look into offering winter burial policies.

Lockwood said she was seeking to have the winter burials because it tugs on the heartstrings of families to have to wait for a burial for weeks or months after holding a memorial service.

For the 2007-2008 winter season, Thayer said 29 bodies were stored in Elmwood Cemetery's mausoleum awaiting burial. That is about double the average over the last seven years, when 16 bodies were kept in the mausoleum waiting for a break in the weather.

Sleds recovered, B & E's solved

Crawford County Sheriff's Deputies found two stolen snowmobiles and arrested a suspect for a pair of breaking and enterings on Sunday.

Crawford County Sheriff Kirk A. Wakefield said deputies recovered a stolen snowmobile at a location in Lovells Township around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Upon further investigation, another stolen snowmobile was recovered in

Frederic.

A suspect was identified, and upon further investigation, it was found that the suspect had also been involved in two other breaking and enterings.

The suspect has been

lodged at the Crawford County Jail on numerous felony charges.

The suspect's name will not be released until after an arraignment is held in Crawford County District Court.

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Issues and Opinions



Almanack

by Richard Milliman

Christmas can be observed in many ways

CHRISTMAS TIME is a time for good things, and a time for stories about Christmases in past years.

We all make our own lore about our personal Christmas history. Most of our Christmas memories are happy ones.

It's our nature to remember the good things about life, but probably each of us has had a few clinkers thrown into Christmases past once in a while. We don't dwell on the sad times, however, unless they somehow produced some unexpected or lasting good result.

For many young men earlier in this century, Christmas probably was not a day eagerly anticipated. These were soldiers fighting a war and separated from their homes and loved ones as Christmas came.

But strange things happened on the World War I battle front in 1914 ... a miracle perhaps.

ON THE WESTERN front during World War I, fighting had been fierce, but on Christmas Eve in 1914, firing from the German trenches suddenly stopped. British soldiers then halted their fir-

ing, too.

All was quiet. It became an unofficial and unexpected Christmas peace.

Although soldiers on both sides had been warned sternly against fraternization, some German soldiers and some British soldiers left their rifles behind and cautiously emerged from their separate trenches into no-man's land.

Then more soldiers from both sides came out, too. Soon they were shaking hands, wishing each other Merry Christmas, even exchanging cigars and schnapps. Soldiers from different nations traded names and addresses, joining together in Christmas songs. Christmas trees and lanterns appeared from the trenches. The Germans brought out a keg of beer, and the British produced tins of beef and jam.

The unofficial truce which began on Christmas Eve lasted all of Christmas Day. Makeshift soccer games even developed.

On the morning after Christmas, the British captain fired three shots into the air and returned to his post on the British side.

His German counterpart — who had been drinking beer with the British officer just hours earlier — also returned to the German side. The two officers bowed to each other, saluted, and all the troops returned to their own lines.

A few moments later, the Germans fired two shots into the air.

And the war was back on again.

The story of the Christmas Eve truce is a fascinating tale, and indicates how the magic of Christmas can be at work ... if we give it a chance.

ANOTHER WONDERFUL Christmas story also involves men wearing the uniforms of their country at Christmas time.

On Dec. 21, 1968, just a few days before Christmas, Apollo 8 lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center on the first manned mission to the moon.

Its purpose was to orbit the moon in preparation for an actual moon landing on a subsequent space shot.

The astronauts of 1968, like the doughboys of 1914, were separated from their families, their loved ones,

and their familiar surroundings for the magic time that is Christmas.

But the crew of Apollo 8 did not forget nor neglect the real meaning of Christmas, even while they were such an unusual and important mission and a great distance from home.

As Apollo 8 entered its orbit around the moon on Christmas Eve, the crew began to relay back to Earth live television pictures of the moon and the Earth.

As Christmas 1968 dawned on Earth, this is how the crew ended their broadcast from space:

"For all the people on Earth, the crew of Apollo 8 has a message we would like to send you:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep ..."

Then the three man crew taking turns continued reading the first 10 verses of the Book of Genesis, which ended:

"... and God called the dry land earth; and the gathering together of the waters He called the Seas. And God

saw that it was good."

Commander Frank Borman then concluded the Christmas message from space: "And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you ... all of you on the good Earth."

The vastness of space, and the perspective the astronauts were observing first hand, to me add special significance to their choice of message.

Just as the soldiers from opposing sides of World War I fought 54 years earlier, the men of Apollo 8 also recognized the reason for the season of Christmas.

The Almanack is pleased to echo Apollo's message from space 40 years later, and from the perspective of familiar ground instead of the vastness of space:

To all of you, from the Almanack, a very Merry Christmas and a wish that God's blessings reach every one of you and all your loved ones.

CORRECTION — The Almanack for the week of Dec. 15, 2008, discussed the disparity between salaries paid to university presidents

and big college football coaches.

The widest and weirdest disparity cited was at Northwestern University, a private school and a member of the Big Ten athletic conference, where the president was paid about \$1.7 million and the football coach's pay was listed at \$75,000. This disparity, of course, is entirely counter to the national trend where coaches usually are paid much more than presidents.

Indiana University coach was listed at \$65,000.

Rechecking the source of the article, however, shows a couple of misplaced decimal points. The Northwestern coach's salary should be listed at \$750,000, and the Indiana coach's pay at \$650,000. The writer apologizes for the error.

The point of the article, of course, is still valid: We seem to value football coaches much higher than university presidents.

Richard Milliman is a veteran newspaperman, and a contributing columnist to several Michigan newspapers.

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Letters to the Editor

Kind people made a stressful situation manageable

To the editor:

I began my trip Saturday morning at about 4 a.m., but began to experience car troubles just outside of Grayling.

As a woman travelling alone, this is a frightening situation. I stopped at a motel in Grayling and decided I would look for a mechanic during business hours.

I found a car repair place who took my ailing car for

a quick ride and diagnosed the problem as minor. Some fluids, a bit of air in a tire and an adjustment to my spark plugs and wires and I was on my way again. The cost ... nothing. The hotel charged me less than half their daily rate. My biggest worry was that I would be stranded for days and overcharged by an unscrupulous mechanic. We hear tales of this happening all the time.

Family can relate to the problems with dyslexia

To the editor:

Margaret Van Gorp, this letter is in reply to your letter to the editor in the Dec. 4, 2008, edition of the Crawford County Avalanche.

Our family can relate to the problem of dyslexia in

the state of Michigan. My 8-year-old granddaughter is suffering because of it. When she lived in Traverse City, we were able to find a tutor for her at the cost of \$136 per month. It has helped. Now, in the Grayling schools, the

These kind people made an extremely stressful situation manageable for me. I enjoyed a good breakfast, was treated courteously and quickly, and was on my way by 10 a.m.

My entire trip lasted 11 hours with the bad weather and lousy road conditions, but I made it home safely.

Darlene Watters
Wasaga Beach, Ontario,
Canada

teachers expect her to do everything other third graders do. It has been very difficult for her.

We want to thank you for asking for help from the State of Michigan.

Marjorie Roper
Grayling

It is heartwarming to know that good deeds still happen

To the editor:

On Dec. 2, my Uncle Bill was driving up from Flint to attend a funeral in Cheboygan. He began having car trouble at the Grayling exit, so he took the exit and drove down the business loop to a local auto parts store to look for a car repair shop. The auto parts shop called around and found a repair shop that was able to help. They were able to get my Uncle Bill's truck repaired in just about an hour and he was back on the road in no time at all. He said they were very friendly and accommodat-

ing.

You can imagine my surprise when I met my uncle in Cheboygan at the funeral and he told me about his experience in Grayling (our family lives in Grayling). It made me proud to know that I live in a community that is so helpful and generous.

It is heartwarming to know that such good deeds do still happen and what better time of year than at this holiday season. Happy Holidays.

Renee Brown
Grayling

Letters to the Editor

The opinions expressed in the letters and columns on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Crawford County Avalanche.

Your views are welcome on the Opinion Page. Letters may be typed or handwritten, but please double-space or use every other line and limit to 500 words.

Every letter must be signed and an

address and telephone number must be included to be considered for publication. Letters will not be published without the author's name. Telephone numbers are not published.

All letters are subject to editing and will be printed as space allows.

Deadline for submission of letters to the editor is Friday at noon for consideration for publication in the following week's paper.

Wanted Old Photos!

We accept old photos for our "Historically Speaking" portion in our paper. Please submit your photos with information at the Crawford County Avalanche office, 102 Michigan Ave., Grayling.

Our office will close at
noon on Wednesday, December 24.
The Avalanche office will reopen on
Friday, December 26, at 9 am.

NEW YEARS DEADLINES

The January 1, 2009
Avalanche will be on newsstands on
Tuesday, December 30th, 2008
Deadlines for the January 1, 2009
Avalanche will be:

Display Ads: Wed. Dec. 24 at noon
Community News: Fri. Dec. 26 at noon
Classified Display Ads: Fri. Dec. 26 at noon
Classified Ads by the word: Mon. Dec. 29 at noon

Our office will close on
Wednesday, December 31, at noon.
The Avalanche office will reopen on
Friday, January 2, at 9 am.

Briefs

Community calendar available online

The Crawford County Avalanche has a community calendar on their new web site. To view area happenings, or to be considered for publication of your event, go to crawfordcountyavalanche.com, click on community and go to the community calendar.

Taxes and holiday charitable giving

While the spirit of giving seems to grow during the holiday season, the IRS reminds taxpayers to keep some important points in mind when making donations with the expectation of deducting them on a federal tax return.

Taxpayers can deduct donations only if they make them to a qualified tax exempt organization.

"The IRS Web site allows taxpayers to search for many charitable organizations online with Publication 78," said IRS spokesperson Luis D. Garcia. "Qualified organizations can include nonprofit groups that range from religious to scientific, charitable to educational, or that work to prevent cruelty to children or animals. Generally, organizations will be able to tell you whether they are federally tax exempt and eligible to accept tax-deductible donations."

Garcia added that it is necessary to file Form 1040 and itemize deductions on Schedule A to receive a charitable contribution deduction. Good record keeping is important too.

To deduct any charitable donation of money, a taxpayer must have a bank record, credit card statement or a written communication from the charity showing the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. A bank record includes canceled checks or bank or credit union statements. Bank or credit union statements should show the name of the charity and the date and amount donated. Credit card statements should show the name of the charity, the transaction posting date and the amount donated. Prior law allowed taxpayers to support their donations of money with personal bank registers, diaries or notes made around the time of the donation.

MSA stresses safe holiday riding

The Michigan Snowmobile Association (MSA) delivers a public safety message for the holiday riding season.

Safety is particularly important during the holidays due to increased snowmobile traffic that includes younger, less experienced riders. Zero tolerance for mixing alcohol and snowmobiling is always strictly enforced.

"The holidays bring family gatherings with more snowmobiles and younger riders on the trails," said Bill Manson, the MSA's executive director. "Alcohol should never be consumed before or during operation of a snowmobile. Not only is it very dangerous, but infractions also count against motor vehicle driving records."

This holiday season is expected to see more snowmobilers because snowfall has been heavy and gas prices are the lowest in four years.

Supervising minors and zero tolerance for alcohol are especially important to maintain safe trails. Michigan law requires snowmobilers under the age of 12 to be supervised by an adult, even when riding on property owned by a parent or guardian, and to refrain from crossing a roadway.

tion. Those types of records are no longer sufficient.

For all donations of property, including clothing and household items, obtain from the charity a receipt that includes the name of the charity, the date of the contribution and a reasonably-detailed description of the donated property. If a donation is left at a charity's unattended drop site, keep a written record of the donation that includes this information, as well as the fair market value of the property at the time of the donation and the method used to determine that value.

To deduct charitable contributions of items valued at \$250 or more, you must have a written acknowledgment from the qualified organization.

To deduct charitable contributions of items valued at \$500 or more, you must also complete a Form 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions, and attach the form to your tax return.

To be deductible, clothing and household items, such as furniture, furnishings, electronics, appliances and linens donated to charity, must be in good used condition or better. Any clothing or household item for which a taxpayer claims a deduction of over \$500 does not have to be in good used condition or better if the taxpayer includes a qualified appraisal of the item with the return.

More information about charitable donations can be found in IRS Publication 526: <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p526/index.html>.

To search for a qualified charity visit our Publication 78 site: <http://irs.gov/charities/article/0..id=96136.00.html>.

Other forms and publications can be found at irs.gov or requested by calling toll-free at 1-800-TAX-FORM.



Hartwick Pines State Park and Logging Museum will host Winter Trails Day - a national event that offers those new to snow sports an opportunity to try snowshoeing free - on Jan. 10.

Hartwick Pines State Park to host Winter Trails Day events

Hartwick Pines State Park and Logging Museum will host Winter Trails Day on Jan. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Winter Trails Day is a national event that offers those new to snow sports an opportunity to try snowshoeing free. Equipment and instruction will be available at the Michigan Forest Visitor Center at Hartwick Pines, so advance registration is recommended. Besides free rentals of snowshoes, activities will include a couple of guided snowshoe hikes, clinics on winter wildlife, dressing for winter activities, winter fitness, winter survival and first aid, children's activities and free giveaways.

"Snowshoeing is a great activity to get people outside in the middle of winter and is a healthy activity besides being fun," said Rob Burg, the historian at Hartwick Pines and the local organizer for the Winter Trails Day event. "At Hartwick Pines, this is also a great way to enjoy our old growth forest that so many people come to see in the summer. You can see the forest from a different perspective in the winter and with much less crowds."

Besides being a good way of getting around the park in winter, snowshoeing is a great way to work off those extra pounds that you may have put on over the holidays. Snowshoeing is an excellent form of low-risk, low impact aerobic exercise, according to SnowSports Industries America (SAI), a national nonprofit trade association that represents product suppliers. Snowshoeing can help improve or maintain cardiovascular fitness as well as burn calories.

For more information about Winter Trails Day or to register online, visit www.wintertrails.org. For questions about the events at Hartwick Pines State Park, call 989-348-2537 or e-mail burg@michigan.gov.

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The Bible Speaks

God's Wonderful Purpose

In Romans 8:26-28 God's perfect work results from the Holy Spirit praying God's will into our lives. "26Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Now in Romans 8:29 God explains more details about ".....them who are the called according to his purpose." "29For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." The God of wisdom, love, and grace had an intimate relationship with us from eternity past, predestinating the goal of our salvation to conform us into the image of His Son for the glory and preeminence of Jesus Christ.

The Greek word translated "foreknow" in Romans 8:29 is translated "foreordained" in 1 Peter 1:20 where Jesus Christ was also predestined to be our savior. "20Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." Jesus Christ was the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" in Revelation 13:8. This is why Jesus Christ took a human body in the womb of the Virgin Mary some 2,000 years ago to live a perfect righteous life, die on the cross for our sins, and be resurrected to give us eternal life. We can only hope to be conformed to the image of God's Son by complete faith and trust in the person, work, and word of our Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior.

So we see the past glory of being foreknown of God, "For whom he did foreknow....." We also see the present glory of being predestinated by God, ".....to be conformed to the image of His Son...." Part of this conformity to the image of His Son is our adoption as children into God's family in Ephesians 1:5: "5Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his

will." Another part is our eternal inheritance in Ephesians 1:11: "11In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."

Finally, we see the prophetic glory of Jesus Christ in all this. ".....that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Colossians 1:15-18 gives some excellent commentary on this final exaltation of Jesus Christ: "15Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." Merry Christmas! Pastor "B"

The Bible Speaks is a paid advertisement and does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Crawford County Avalanche.

District Health Dept. #10 Calendar

District Health Department No. 10, Grayling office, has scheduled the following clinics/classes for January.

Flu clinics: Call 989-348-7800 for an appointment.

Immunization clinics: Jan. 7 and 12 by appointment. Call 989-348-7800 for an appointment.

Family planning clinic: Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27. Call 989-348-7800 for an appointment.

WIC clinics: This program provides supplemental foods and nutrition education for eligible pregnant and breast feeding women, infants and children: Jan. 8, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 28 and 29. Call 989-348-7800 for an appointment.

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard Training sessions. For information, call 231-876-3839.

Breast and cervical cancer screenings are available to women ages 40-64 who have limited or no health insurance. A clinic is scheduled for Jan. 20 in Grayling. Call 989-348-7800, ext. 8042, for an appointment.

Hearing and vision screening. This is a free program for children ages 3 through 3rd grade. Appointments are necessary. Call 989-348-7800 for an appointment.

The Crawford County branch office of District Health Department #10 is located on Meadows Drive, east of the South I-75 Business Loop, in Grayling.

Senior Citizen News

Join us for a meal either at noon or 5 p.m. weekdays, except Friday, when there is no evening meal. Soup or salad bar served prior to the meal Monday through Thursday.

This week's menu (lunch/dinner) and activities:

Friday, Dec. 26 - Closed.

Monday, Dec. 29 - Lunch - hamburger on a bun, lettuce and tomato, O'Brien potatoes and applesauce. Dinner - chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn and peaches. 1 p.m. Bridge.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 - Lunch - lasagna, Brussels sprouts, winter blend vegetables, a

breadstick and oranges and grapefruit. Dinner - baked potato with chili, broccoli with cheese sauce and mixed fruit. 10 a.m. Tone and Tubes and Bible Study, 1 p.m. Euchre, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. blood pressure/sugar checks.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 - Lunch - creamy chicken and noodles, carrots, green beans and pears. No Dinner. Closed at 1 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 1 - Closed.

The Crawford County Commission on Aging's Senior Center is located at 308 Lawndale, behind Burger King in Grayling. Walk-ins are welcome.

Library News

The C.C.L.L. Book Club will meet at the Devereaux Memorial Library on Tuesday, Dec. 30, at 5 p.m. The book discussion will be on "Skipping Christmas" by John Grisham, our special holiday selection. We ask that you wrap a gently used book for a gift exchange with other club members as part of this Christmas event.

Story Hour will be held every Wednesday at 11:15 a.m. Preschool age children and their parents can enjoy

interactive stories, crafts and a light snack.

The "Sit n' Knit" club has been moved to Thursday, Jan. 8, due to holiday closings. This new club for knitters usually meets the first Thursday of every month at the Devereaux Memorial Library from 10 a.m. to noon. If you would like to join, or for more information, call Jane at 348-9214.

The Crawford County Libraries will be closed on Jan. 1.

Obituaries

Emil L. Kraus

Emil Lennon Kraus, 91, of Grayling, passed away on December 14, 2008.

He was born in Grayling on April 12, 1917, the son of the late Emil L. and Leone Virginia (Lennon) Kraus.

He married his first wife Amalia in 1945, she preceded him in death in 1967.

He married the former Laurine Keller in 1968, in Detroit.

He is survived by his wife Laurine of Grayling; daughters: Mary (George) Blaha of Troy, Amy (Stan) Jozefczyk of Rochester Hills, Catherine (Jeffrey) Calvin of Granger, Ind., Margaret (James) Warkentien of Jenison; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; sisters: Virginia Kraus of Grayling, Yvonne Fitzpatrick of Benzonia and Kathleen Cherven of Grayling.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Amalia; and brothers William and John Kraus.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with Father Robert Nalley officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, to a fund for enhancing landscaping and grounds of the parish, or to the Crawford County Christian Help Center.

Condolences may be sent to www.sorenson-lockwood.com

Arrangements made by Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

Garth A. Meyer

Garth A. "Smoke" Meyer, 81, of Roscommon, passed away on December 18, 2008.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on January 3, 2009, at the First Congregational Church in Roscommon.

Arrangements made by Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon.

In Memory of

In loving memory of David McClain.

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday, and days before that too.

We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. Now, all we have are memories and your picture in a frame.

Your memory is our keepsake, with which we will never part. God has you in keeping, we have you in our hearts.

Sadly missed
Love Dad, Mom and family

Church Directory

Christian Science Society
209 First St. - Suite 103 - Gaylord
(989) 732-7001

Sunday Service 10:30 am
April through October
2nd & 4th Wednesday 7 pm
Sunday School 10:30 am

Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor: Dr. William A. Cargo
400 Michigan Ave. - (989) 348-2974
www.mumc.org - Barrier Free
Traditional Service 9 am
Coffee Hour 10 am
Sunday School (preschool - 3rd grade) 11 am
Adult Sunday School 10 am
Praise & Worship Service 11 am
(Childcare Available)

Seventh Day Adventist

Pastor: David Jorgensen
(989) 348-1909
Services held Saturday at Camp Ausable
off M-72 East (1st building on right inside
camp entrance)
Saturday Church Service 9:30 am
Saturday Sabbath School 10:30 am
Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7 pm

Lovells Community Chapel

(Bible based and non-denominational)
Pastor: Larry Hankins
8133 Bald Hill Rd. - Lovells
(989) 348-2701
Sunday School (youth & adult) 10 am
Morning Worship 11 am
Web Prayer & Bible Study 7-8 pm

Grayling Free Methodist

Pastor: Rick Secord
6652 M-72 West - (989) 348-9093
Early Service 8:30 am
Sunday School 10 am
Morning Service 11 am
Prayer Meeting (Wednesday) 7 pm

Emma Lowery United Church of Christ

3474 West Park Road, Luzerne

Sunday Worship 11 am
Adult & Youth Sunday School 9:30 am

Heritage Baptist

Pastor: Ernie Wagner - (989) 348-1411
heritagebaptist-grayling.org
1841 Hartwick Pines Rd.
(1/4 mile west of I-75)
Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 11 am
Evening Worship 6 pm
Wednesday 7 pm

Grayling Assembly of God

Pastor: John Wojdan
701 S. I-75 Business Loop
Parsonage (989) 348-7466
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Evening Service 6 pm
Family Night Adult-Youth-Children (Wed) 7 pm

The Church of Christ

with the Elijah Message
7662 Kelly Ave., Frederic

Sunday Worship 10 am

Westminster-By-The-Lake

(East of Ralph MacMillan Conference Center)
Worship with us in a beautiful outdoor chapel
(989) 821-9474

Sunday Worship 11 am

St. John Lutheran (ELCA)

710 Spruce Street
(989) 348-5224

Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

905 N. I-75 Bus. Loop
at M-93 & Old 27
• Grayling

First Baptist Church of Frederic

Pastor: Dale Hammond

Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 11 am
Evening Worship 6 pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7 pm

Unity Church of Today North

Minister: Terry Dickinson
Virtual Church - an E-mail Bible Study
available at ilmud@freeway.net

Luzerne Baptist

Pastor: James Durfee
2247 Durfee Lane

Sunday School 10 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Burning Bush Tabernacle

Pastor: Patricia Petrie - (989) 348-1278
501 E. Michigan Ave., Grayling

Sunday School 10 am
Sun. Service, Children's Church & Youth
Service 11 am
Sunday Evening Service 6 pm
Monday Prayer Meeting 7 pm
Wednesday Service 7 pm
Friday Prayer Meeting 7 pm
(van transportation available)

Community of Christ

Pastor: Ann Doty
North Down River Rd. at
1030 Glenn Rd. - (989) 348-9751

Church School 9:45 am
Preaching 11 am
Midweek Service Prayer 7 pm

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Community

Pastor: Robert W. Nalley, J.V.
Parish Office - 707 Spruce
(989) 348-7657

Saturday Evening Masses 4:30 pm
Sunday Masses 10 am

St. Francis Episcopal

Reverend: Elizabeth Chace
M-72 West - Office (989) 348-5850

Morning Prayer Tue-Fri 8:30 am
Eucharist (Wed) 8:30 am
Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am

Resurrection Life Center

Pastor: Bud & Debbie Mann
Mail: 2640 M-72 West Grayling, MI 49738
reslifeccenter.com
Phone: (989) 348-1000

Sunday Service 10:30 am
Midweek Services (Wed) 7 pm
E-mail: reslifefellowship@hotmail.com

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church (LCMS)

905 N. I-75 Bus. Loop
(at junction of M-93 & Old 27)
(989) 348-5921

Saturday Evening Worship Service 7 pm
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15 am

Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor: Dr. Robert Barnett
M-72 West, Grayling - (989) 348-9220

Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Evening Worship 6 pm
Wednesday 7 pm
Prayer & Awana Club (Wed) 7 pm

Church of Christ

Old US-27 at Skyline Rd. - (989) 275-8613
In Search of the Lord's Way Sunday Mornings on
TV 29 & 8 7:30 am

Sunday Classes 10 am
Sunday Worship 11 am
Sunday Evening 6 pm

1st Sunday Evening of every month, there is no service
Midweek Bible Study (Wed) 7 pm

Abundant Life Tabernacle

Pastor: Lyle Stader
211 Shellenbarger St. - (989) 348-5325

Sunday School 10 am
Sunday Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Wednesday Evening 7 pm

Grayling Baptist Church

Affiliated with S.B.C.
Pastor: John Scott

705 Madsen St., Grayling - (989) 348-2557

Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 11 am
Evening Service 6 pm
Wednesday Service 7 pm

Bear Lake Christian

Pastor: David Rosenberg
Associate Pastor: Scott Hoffer
M-72 & East Bear Lake Rd.

Sunday Church Service 10 am - 6:30 pm
Sunday School 9 am
Bible Study (Wed.) 7 pm
Youth Group 2nd & 4th Wed. 6:30 pm

Church Alive Church of God

Pastor: David Barker
506 North Birch St., Kalkaska
(231) 258-3448

Sunday School 10 am
Worship Service 11 am & 6 pm
Family Training Hour & Prayer
(Wednesday) 7 pm

St. Martin Ev. Lutheran (WELS)

Pastor: Douglas Carter
The Roscommon Community Center, 510
South St., Roscommon, MI

For information call (989) 821-6013
New phone number (989) 275-3070

Sunday 9 am

Friendship Church

A Christian Reformed Ministry
Pastor: Rev. Dick Oberg
415 Ohio North, Gaylord

Sunday School 9 am
Morning Worship 10 am
Tue. Women's Bible Study 10 am
Wed. Men's Bible Study Noon

Grayling Valley Church of God

Pastor: Gary Thompson
(989) 422-3464 - (989) 344-0883

Meetings held at Ramada Inn
Sunday Night Potluck 5 pm
Sunday Service 6 pm

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints**

President: David Stephenson
600 North Elm Street, Gaylord

Sacrament 10 am
Sunday School 11 am
Primary 11 am
Priesthood Noon
Relief Society Noon

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348-6841

This Church Directory is used by residents and visitors. If you wish to show your support for area churches, call the Avalanche at 348-6811 to be included on this page.

Christmas Services



Grayling Free Methodist - 348-9093
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 6:00 pm

St. Mary's Catholic Church - 348-7657
Vigil of Christmas Eve - 8:00 pm
Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day - 10:00 am

Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church - 348-2974
Christmas Eve
Traditional Family Service - 5:30 pm
Traditional Service - 7:30 pm
Candlelight Service - 11:00 pm

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church - 348-5921
Christmas Eve Worship Service - 7:00 pm

Bear Lake Christian Church - 231-258-6007
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service - 9:00 pm

Resurrection Life Fellowship of Northern Michigan - 348-1000
Christmas Program Dec. 21st - 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 pm

St. Francis Episcopal - 348-9809
Christmas Eve - 7:30 pm
Christmas Day - 10:30 am

Lovells Community Chapel - 348-2701
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm

Heritage Baptist Church - 348-2558
Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 pm

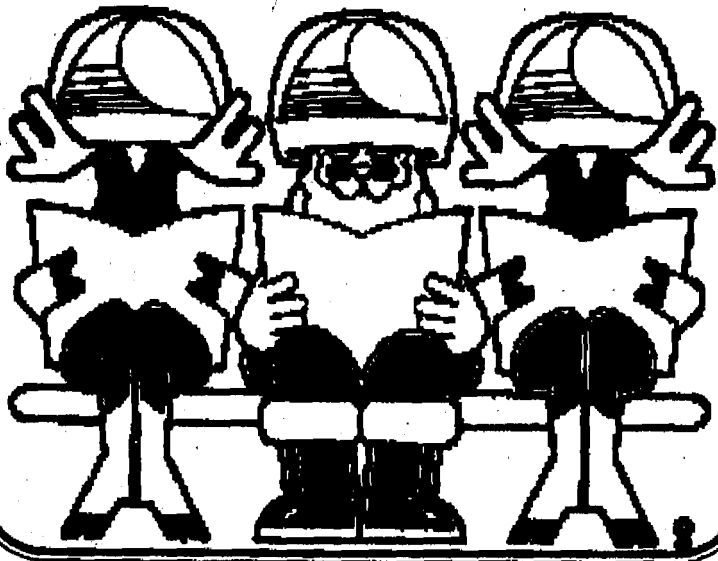
AVALANCHE

www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com

Merry Christmas!

To all of our friends and patrons we say thanks! Celebrate in style!

A Cut Above



Friendship is the thread that keeps us all connected. With warmth and sincerity, we thank you for the gift of yours and wish you all a very joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

The Icehouse Quilt Shop

Merry Christmas
Ted, Ali & Cody Baynham

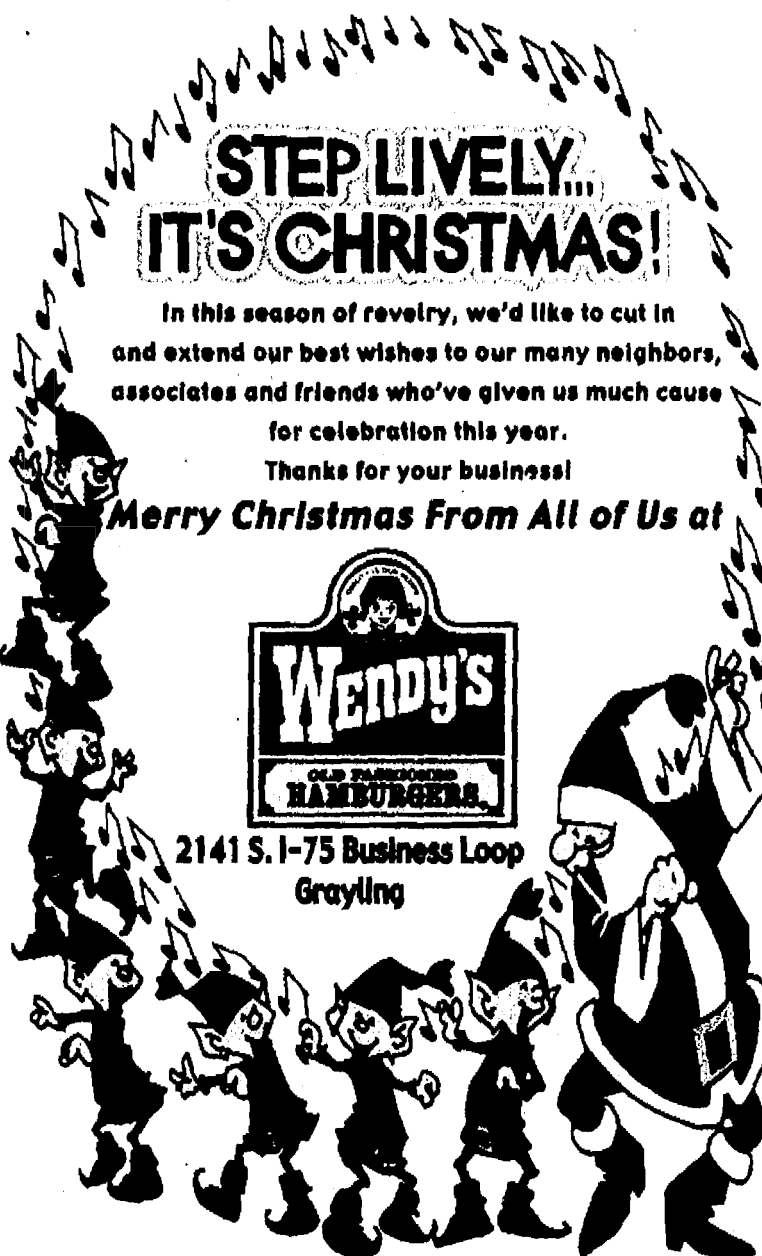
God cared enough to send
the very best...



Jesus is the Reason
for the Season
Merry Christmas
from
The Lockwood Family & Staff of
Sorenson Lockwood Funeral Home &

1108 North Down River Rd. • P.O. Box 602
Grayling, Michigan 49738
www.sorensonlockwood.com
Terrie Lockwood, Manager 348-2951

Holiday Greetings



STEP LIVELY... IT'S CHRISTMAS!

In this season of revelry, we'd like to cut in and extend our best wishes to our many neighbors, associates and friends who've given us much cause for celebration this year.

Thanks for your business!

Merry Christmas From All of Us at



2141 S. I-75 Business Loop
Grayling

May your Christmas Season be

Merry



and bright,
From all of us,
to all of you.



Dr. Cheryl Mitchell D.D.S.
315 W. Higgins Lake Dr.
Higgins Lake • 821-GRIN

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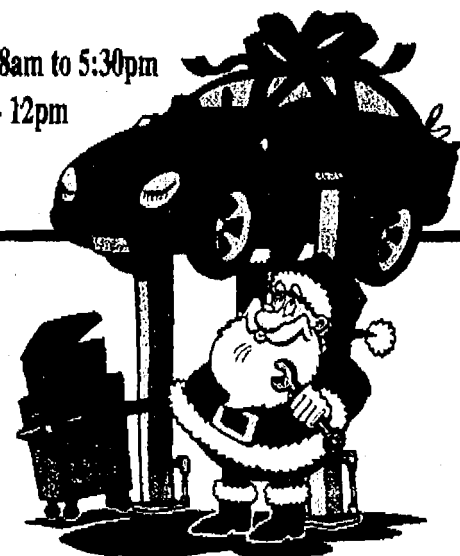
Here's hoping everything runs smoothly for you this holiday season.

We appreciate your choosing us and thank you for your continued business.



701 Maron St., Grayling • 348-2887

Mon-Fri 8am to 5:30pm
Sat 8am - 12pm



A Holiday Prescription

Take a large dose of good cheer, mix with several friends and family, and have a happy, healthy Christmas! Thank you for choosing us.

**The Medicine
Shoppe**

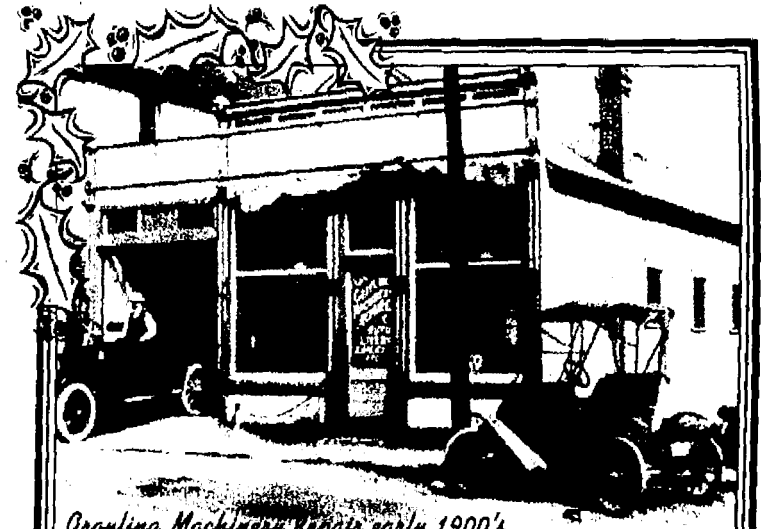


HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We have enjoyed serving you. Rain or shine, ice or snow, we want you to know how important you are to us. Thanks to you and best wishes for happiness in the coming year.

Westside Diner

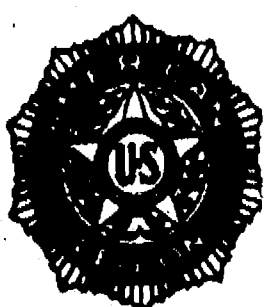
6301 M-72 West
Grayling



May your Holidays be filled with good old fashioned days of Friendship, Love and Laughter. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
**Milltown Auto Painting
& Towing**



To Our Troops and
Their Families!



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- Minor Surgeries
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Township tweaks fire department pact

Continued from 1A

"Everybody is getting caught up in semantics, as far as words, and that just drives a wedge towards working together in good faith," Long said.

Township officials, however, acknowledged receipt of the city's contract offer and requested four changes be made to the pact.

"It's like the guy that says I quit, but keeps throwing punches," Long said about language changed by city officials in the agreement.

First, township officials prefer to have the contract called an interim agreement while city officials work on the establishment of an administrative board to oversee fire department operations and the establishment of a formula to fund the department.

Next, the township board is seeking to clarify if the fire chief has the responsibility to appoint the assistant fire chief. The board is also asking that the fire department's personnel be allowed to assist the Grayling Charter Township Building Department. The city's version of the contract cited that fire personnel would assist the Crawford County Building Department. The township board also asked that a second reference be added to the funding portion of the agreement that says both boards will work toward a more equitable funding formula to run the fire department. Officials from both municipalities discussed having a formula based on SEVs, population and the number of improved properties in each municipality at a joint meeting in September.

Finally, the board is asking

for language, stating that the contract will become effective immediately and retroactive back to July 1, 2008, the fiscal year for the fire department, deleted. The township previously included language that says the agreement will run from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2011. The city is asking for a one-year notice if the township plans to withdraw from the department and go its own way.

Grayling Charter Township Supervisor Terry Wright warned township officials to be careful and consistent with their changes to the agreement.

"If you're not careful with the wording, a lawyer can take you into court and tear you apart," Wright said.

Township Clerk Monica Ashton said the fire department had been proposed to be run as it had always been run. She believes that references to contracts are a potential ploy by the city to annex township property if they can prove that fire department operations are not being supported.

"We both own the department, so why are we calling it a contract," Ashton said. "We're making a contribution to support our assets and our services."

In January 2008, the township board authorized a lawsuit against the City of Grayling. Township officials are seeking the return of a committee of township and city officials to oversee the operations of the Grayling City/Township Fire Department.

The lawsuit was prompted after failed negotiations to renew a mutual operating agreement between the city and the township, which expired in June 2007.

The Grayling City Council has proposed that the Grayling City/Township Fire Department be considered as a department of the city and administered by Grayling City Manager David Thayer.

The city offered a 10-year contract that called for the township to pay 60 percent of the operating costs for the fire department, with the city covering 40 percent of the expenses. Also, the township board and city council would

meet twice a year, or as needed, to discuss the fire department's policies, budget and other related issues. The city also agreed to assume the liability for the fire department and the fire inspector.

After a meeting with the citizen's group formed by the township in November, the city agreed to trim the pact to a three-year deal and form the administrative board under the state's Public Act 33.

Thayer said the contract is nothing more than an agreement to purchase fire services from the city.

Thayer said that the committee that township officials are referring to in the lawsuit was formed to find property and build the new fire department. The committee was formed under former Grayling City Manager Allen Lowe's administration. Thayer said that the committee took on more duties than it was legally authorized to do by state statute, such as dismissing the construction manager for the fire department. He also said the fire chief is also not allowed to sit on the board under the statute.

"After they built the fire hall, the committee should have disappeared, but it didn't and it took on a life of its own," he said.

The city council and the township board would dictate the authority the administrative board would have.

"My council does not want to delegate its legislative authority, and they have been firm on that and saying that all along," Thayer said.

A trial has been scheduled for Jan. 28-30.

Township officials are asking 46th Circuit Trial Court Judge Janet M. Allen for a court order to divide fire trucks, equipment and interests, in the current and former fire department buildings, between the city and the township if a pact between the municipalities cannot be reached.

Thayer said he is sure a stipulation to adjourn the trial may be sought if a deal can't be reached.

"The judge is not going to be played like a yo-yo, I know that," he said.

Thayer said the city manager has the authority to appoint the assistant fire chief under the city's ordinance regulating the fire department.

A copy of the contract revisions had not been sent to city hall for their review by Friday, Dec. 19, and township officials did not call or visit the city hall to inform them of what took place at their meeting.

Thayer said that the contract would have to be reviewed by the city council to ensure there are no ramifications to the overall agreement. The city council's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 12. A special meeting could be held, but Thayer wants to have all five city council members present and ensure compliance with the state's Open Meetings Act.

"You can't sign a contract and then say you'll work out the details later," he said.

Grayling Township resident Mike Ingalls questioned why Crawford County Sheriff's Deputies were covering the City of Grayling while replacements are being sought for former Police Chief Karl Schreiner and Officers Carl Devries and Robert Butzin. He also questioned why Thayer gets involved in other agencies in the community.

"He wants his thumb on everything and he's just throwing his weight around," Ingalls said.

Grayling Township Trustee Duane Brooks, who was a firefighter and fire chief for the Grayling City/Township Fire Department for 32 years, said city officials are working to bring new officers on board in January. "They're in the process of hiring some people," Brooks said. "This doesn't happen overnight."

Thayer, who has been the Grayling city manager just over two years, said he has to handle all sorts of issues on a day-to-day basis. Thayer said he is involved in other agencies as the community moves forward and said the only criticism he has heard is from the citizen's committee formed at the October township board meeting.

Area Business Directory

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Crawford County Commission on Aging down to few relocation options

Continued from 1A

COA sought to purchase just over an acre from the Crawford County Road Commission to add to the Eagles site to make it functional. Road Commission officials, however, said they needed the property for their own expansion plans.

The current Grayling Senior Center, built in the 1960s, has 5,000 square feet of space. Initially, the COA Board believed the senior center needed about 7,000 square feet of space to provide its programs and services. But in October, a firm called Life Span Design Studio, of Lebanon, Ohio, reviewed the needs of the senior center and the potential services the organization hopes to offer. The architects and aging specialists determined that the Grayling Senior Center would need between 8,000 to 12,600 square feet. The space is needed to accommodate the needs and services of younger, more active seniors and the emerging Baby Boomer population moving to northern Michigan.

The COA has also received free plans and architectural drawings from Jim Botnick-Bates of Brad Butcher and Associates of Gaylord for the Grayling Fish Hatchery building. They received plans from Tad Lututsek of Trinity Architecture and Management LLC of Gaylord for the Grayling Eagles site. And, they received plans from DeVere Dennings from the FED Corporation in Gladwin for the new building options.

"Those have been big contributions to the community to help with our floor plan options and give us something to work with," Snyder said.

COA board members have visited new senior centers in Holland and Mt. Pleasant as they continue the relocation studies.

"We're trying to get ideas from the other counties and

we're learning from that," Snyder said.

The conservative estimate to renovate the fish hatchery building or to build new is \$2 million. More expenses may be added if Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards are added to make the senior center as environmentally friendly as possible.

"Because we lie right here in God's Country, it would be nice to do something that would protect our natural resources," Snyder said.

Snyder said that the COA plans to seek grants from foundations for the senior center move. The COA has about \$300,000 in a building fund to help procure the foundation grants.

There are no plans to go to the taxpayers for a millage for a building or renovation project. Snyder, however, said COA officials may have to look at increasing its millage, which is due to expire in 2012, to hire additional staff and offer more services to meet the seniors' wishes.

"In order to cater to the growth and needs of the seniors, we may need to look at increasing the millage and that's something that will be evaluated," Snyder said.

Snyder said the COA Board is trying to keep the seniors engaged and involved in the process.

"We're entering their opinions into the process and we will see how that plays out," Snyder said.

Grayling Township senior Donna Burke said she would prefer a new senior center and believes the fish hatchery is a fire hazard. "I would just as soon see a new building rather than the fish hatchery," Burke said. "To me, it's a fire trap. I'm thinking of safety. The older we get, the slower we move."

Dollie Adolph, a Maple Forest Township resident

who runs euchre leagues at the senior center, does not believe seniors would frequent the fish hatchery.

"We don't want any part of it," Adolph said. "I would prefer to have some place that's close."

Grayling Township Senior Vivian Powers remains vehemently opposed to moving the senior center to the fish hatchery building and presented petitions containing 302 signatures to the COA Board, making a stand for the seniors. Powers said she wished more could be done to convince road commission officials to make the Grayling Eagles Club a viable option.

"It's a second home for many of the seniors," Powers said. "What they are trying to sell us - it's a pig-in-a-poke."

Rosemary and Wayne Nelson, who live in Grayling, recently attended a meeting where seniors were updated on the senior center relocation process. Wayne Nelson said he knows that there is still a lot more of the process to be completed before a decision is made.

"They have a long way to go, they have a lot of studies to do, but ultimately it's up to the commission," Nelson said.

Snyder said there is no deadline to make a final decision.

Nelson said he and his wife have no preference on the final place the new senior center will land.

"We don't have a viewpoint one way or another," Nelson said.

Officials have explored expanding the current senior center's dining room and relocating the Grayling Housing Commission offices to a new location. The Grayling Housing Commission owns the senior center property and building, and also oversees the rental of federally subsi-

dized apartments located next to the senior center.

Due to the space and land restrictions, expanding the current senior center has been ruled out as an option. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development also said that the senior center could not take over the entire building.

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The few remaining dog-eared copies became a prized fisherman's possession. Professor Higbee was offered \$400 for one of his last maps. And state agencies were forced to keep their copies under lock and key.

The experts had always told Professor Higbee that reprints were impossible, because the maps were printed in non-photographic blue.

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Grayling Youth Booster Club

The 50/50 raffle winners for Dec. 21 of \$25 each: Shelly Elmy, Randy Blitchok, Kaylee Horn, John Blaine, Arvilla Pepsin, Steve Brinks, Jan Thayer, JoAnne Krayces, Corky

Hellebuyck, Miranda Bailey, Dennis Sloan, Ted Stephan, Virgil Weaver, Cass Campbell, Cheryl Osborne and Rob Aubry. Grayling Lions Club The winner of the Grayling Lions Club Lucky 13 raffle was Brad Scheer.

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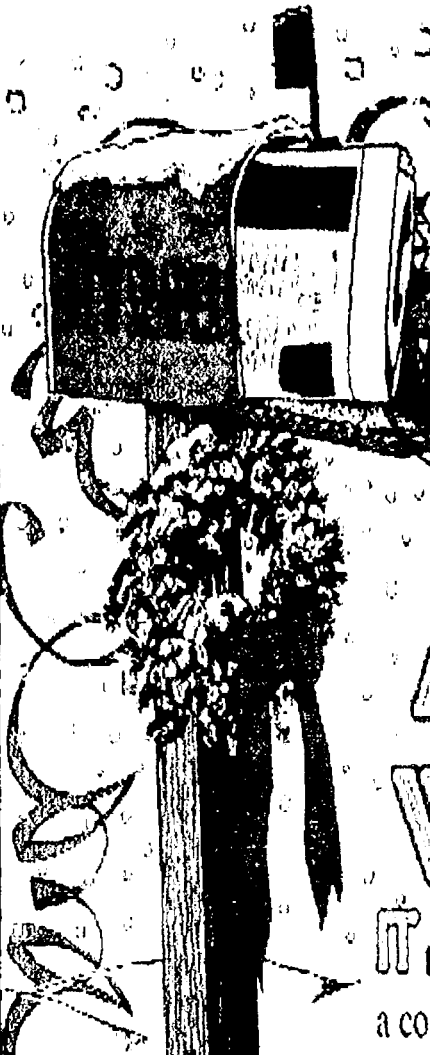
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Happy Holidays

Red Cross responds to 12th fire for 2008

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

Volunteers from the American Red Cross in Crawford County have assisted people, families and emergency responders at a dozen fires in 2008.

The most recent fire took place at 11252 Stephan Bridge Road in South Branch Township. The South Branch Fire Department was called to the fire at 10:22 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. The home owned by Rodney Arsenault was a total loss. Arsenault lives in the home with his 2-year-old son, his girlfriend and her 8-year-old son. The blaze was caused by a fire that ignited in the chimney.

Ernie Windoph, the South Branch Fire Chief, said firefighters had a difficult time fighting the fire because their trucks were freezing up in the 19 below temperatures. The South Branch Township Fire Department's new pumper tanker allowed firefighters to put out the blaze. Firefighters returned to the scene at 9:09 a.m. to put out a blaze that had rekindled.

Arsenault said he has insurance on the home.

American Red Cross volunteers from Crawford County were also called to a residential fire that occurred at 7:15 a.m. on

Thursday, Dec. 18, at 317 Magellan Ave. in Houghton Lake.

The senior couple living in the home was awoken by smoke and flames. The female, age 73, was able to safely exit the home on her own. The man, also age 73, was removed from the home by Roscommon Township Firefighters.

The woman was treated at Mercy Hospital Grayling for injuries. The man was airlifted to Spectrum Hospital in Grand Rapids.

"We're deeply saddened for the families affected," said Dave Gutierrez, Regional Service Delivery Office Director. "As we continue to work with those involved, we'd also like to help others take action to prevent and prepare for home fires throughout the community."

The Red Cross recommends installing smoke alarms outside of each sleeping area and on each level of your home. If you sleep with closed doors, install alarms inside each sleeping area. Use the test button to test each smoke alarm once a month. All smoke alarm batteries need to be replaced once a year. Every family should have a fire escape plan that includes at least two escape routes from every room in the home. Also chose a convenient meeting place at a safe distance from your

home. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year with all family members. Visit the Red Cross web site to obtain valuable lifesaving information.

This was the 12th fire the Regional Service Delivery Office has responded to since the beginning of 2008, which also includes the Grayling forest fire in April. The Regional Service Delivery Office has provided over 30 individuals with immediate emergency assistance at an approximate cost of \$8,810. The Red Cross depends on the generous support of area residents to be ready to respond and help our neighbors who are affected by home fires. You can help the Red Cross continue to help fire victims by making a financial contribution to the Regional Service Delivery Office today.

For more Red Cross fire safety and preparedness information, visit www.RegionalServiceDeliveryOffice-redcross.org or call the Regional Service Delivery Office at 1-800-691-6059.

The American Red Cross Regional Service Delivery Office serves Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Iosco, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Sanilac and Wexford Counties.

Sheriff's Report

Crawford County Sheriff Kirk Wakefield reports his office handled the following 74 complaints the week of Dec. 15 - Dec. 21.

Twenty-three general non-criminal complaints, one runaway, nine false alarm activations, one burglary/home invasion, two larcenies, one weapons

offense/concealed, eight public peace/disorderlies, one OUIL/UBAL, two health and safeties, one conservation, one miscellaneous arrest, 12 traffic accidents, one traffic safety public appearance, six family troubles-domestic, five suspicious situations, three driving violations/driving

while license suspended and one driving on revoked/suspended license.

Sheriff Wakefield asks, "Do you know where your children are? Please remember, our children are our future."

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Dave, Heather & Hilary

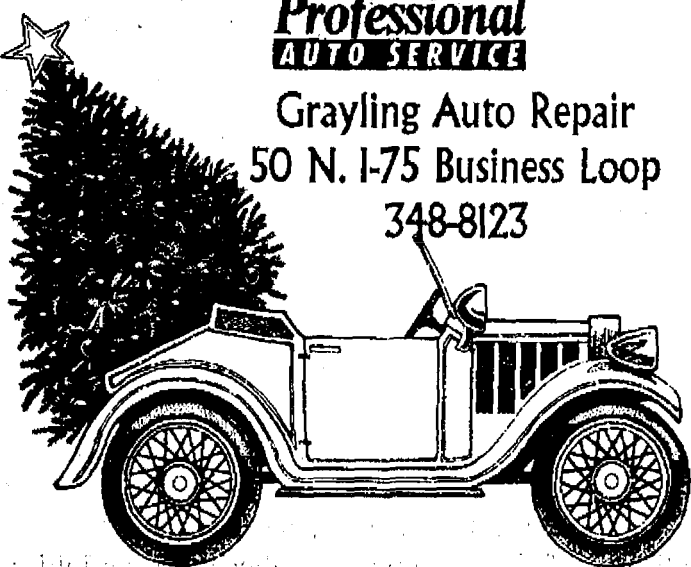
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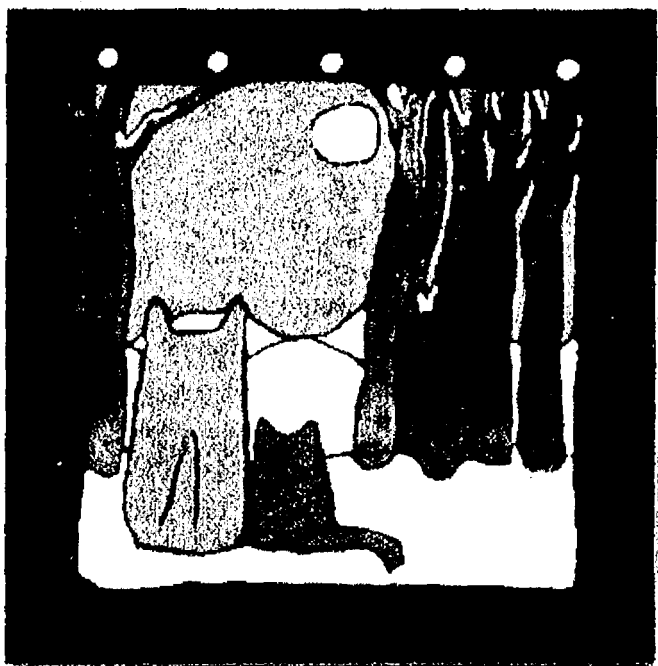
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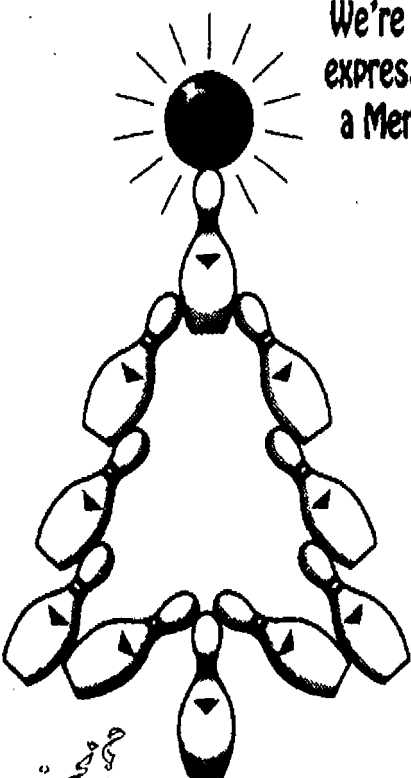
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Local kids put the recession center stage

by Matt Seager
Staff Writer

It's official: The United States' economy is in a recession. Just ask any local fourth grader.

And while you're at it, ask them about what should be done to stave off the collapse of the "big three" automakers or how to reduce our dependence on foreign fuel. Chances are, they'll have an answer.

In fact, dozens of fourth graders at Grayling Elementary School (GES) teamed up to perform a play last Friday that might have taught some adults in the audience a thing or two about today's economy.

The play was an hour long lesson in economics that tackled current issues on the national, state and local levels. The plot could have been ripped straight from the pages of any national newspaper printed in the last two weeks.

"So, the executives gave themselves the bonuses ... but the sales kept going down," narrated one fourth grader in a segment about government bailouts.

"They could just spend (the bailout) all on themselves and be right back here in three months," said a senator played by another GES student.

Audience members, who did not expect 8-year-olds to be discussing such complicated issues, had plenty more surprises in store. Even the local economy received some very pointed commentary.

"I have an idea that would bring more people to Grayling—let's build an amusement park just south of town," suggested a student playing a town official



A group of hip young skateboarders (right) convince a local manufacturer that they must diversify their output in order to capture consumer interest and turn a profit. It was a lesson that could be valuable to some of the nation's largest corporations.



Although playwright Chad Patterson (right) admitted that the story ends on a "down note," he made up for it by allowing some of his best students to give him a pie to the face at the end of the show.

in a brainstorming session. The kids even went so far as to suggest a solution to the energy crisis.

"We have plenty of water and wind. We can make Michigan green," said another young actor.

The performance was directed by the Acting Up Theatre Company, which is spearheaded by local actors Chad Patterson and Natascha McCuan.

"We're having fourth graders say this stuff ... but it's on everybody's mind,"

Patterson said.

Although the adults wrote all the lines for the play, it was the students themselves who provided the basic plot lines.

"The kids come up with this stuff," Patterson said.

He said adults should not be surprised to see GES students discussing such adult issues.

"These kids, they really did get it," Patterson said.

For this reason, he did not hesitate to insert some very specific messages into

the play.

"We are surrounded by coastline. We are surrounded by wind ... we have a lot of vacant factories in the state that could be building wind power," Patterson said.

Not only do local kids seem to have a good grasp on the unfolding economic situation, but their grasp of the art of acting drew praise from their instructors as well.

"These kids came through so strongly ... I can't say enough good things," Patterson said.

Although the students were scheduled to learn their parts over a five day period, a snow day forced them to learn the play in only four days.

Despite the shortened rehearsal time, the GES students did well enough to draw high praise from their principal.

"I thought it was accurate and right on the mark," GES principal Melissa Stone said. "I would think that their guess is as good as any politician's."

She also gave her students a lot of credit for their awareness of current events.

"They listen to the news and they listen to their parents and they have a pretty clear understanding of what's happening," Stone said.

She added that exploring these types of issues is particularly important for kids today.

"I think that they are the future," she said. "So they are the ones that have to find the solution for us."



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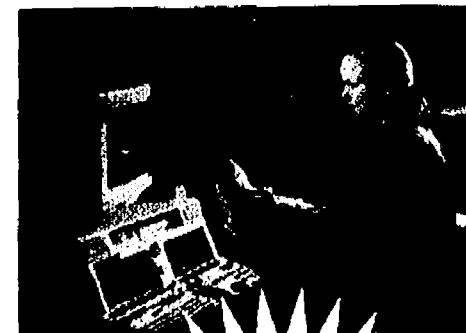


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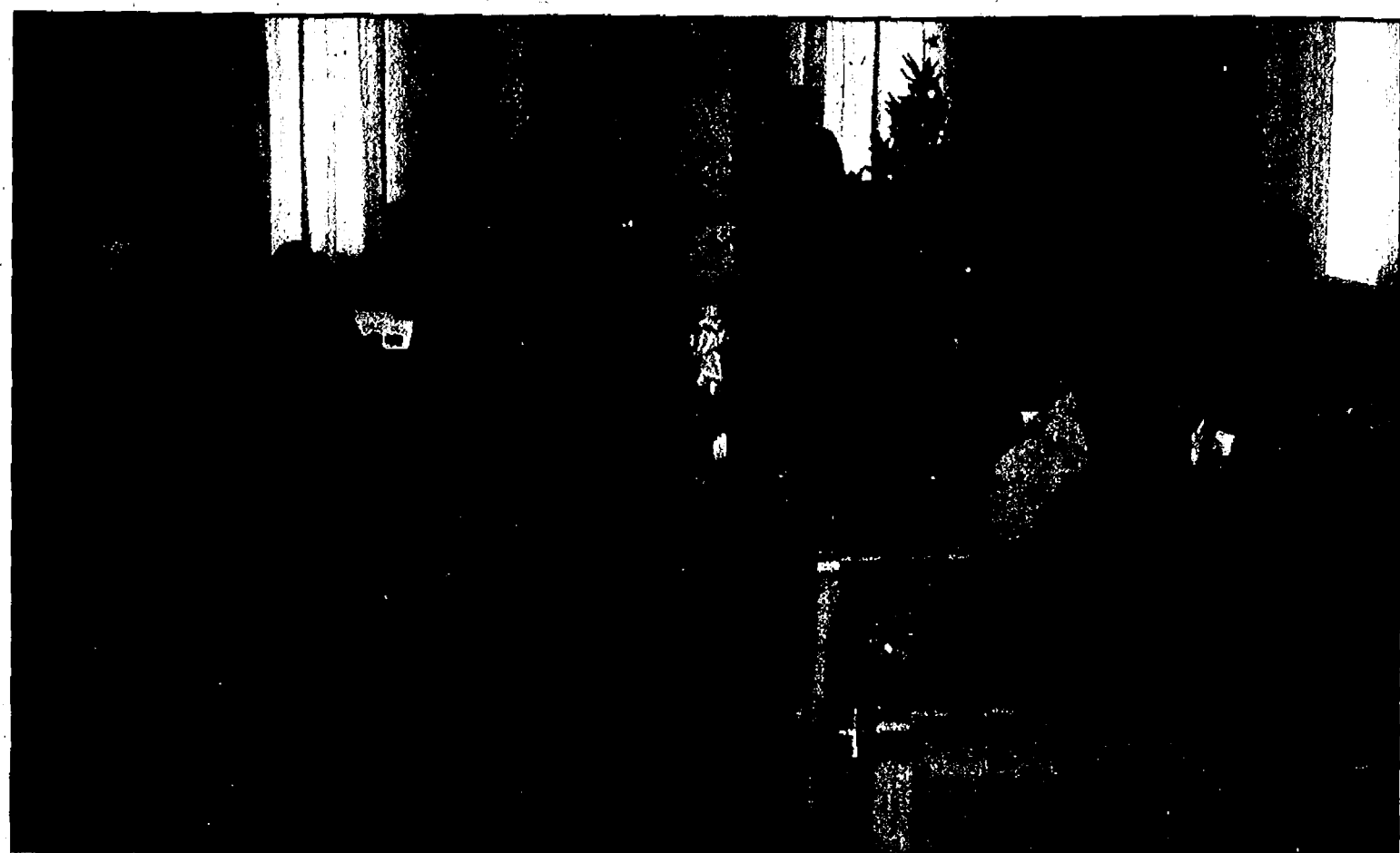
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Wellington brings Christmas past to life



The historic Stittsville Church at Wellington Farm Park was opened up for a special holiday church service on Sunday. Park Director Howard Taylor (pictured above behind pulpit) delivered a few opening comments before the service. He expressed his hope that the Great Depression-era church would not see history repeat itself.

Grayling seniors recall Great Depression era holidays during current economic downturn

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

Amid the current national economic downturn, Crawford County seniors reflected on going through the holidays during the Great Depression.

The Great Depression started in the United States on October 29, 1929, after the stock market crash often referred to as Black Tuesday. Families lived under slim and grim circumstances until 1939, when the United States began supporting the Allies in World War II and began preparing to enter the war.

Grayling native Harold "Tyke" Golnick said his family, which included six children, lived in a home with no electricity. Candles were placed on the Christmas tree only on Christmas Eve. Gifts, some received from the Salvation Army, were placed under the tree on Christmas day.

"We got a little something, but those were very rough and dark times," Golnick said. "Nobody had much of anything."

Golnick, who grew up on the south side of Grayling, said New Year's Eve celebrations were also short and sweet. He said people would mark the New Year by shooting their shotguns into the air from their porches.

"That was all the celebration we did, there was no party time," Golnick said.

Grayling Township resident Naomi Mihaescu was born in Lewiston, but moved to Ferndale when her father George was hired for a job. He was later laid off.

Mihaescu was among a family of six children. During the Great Depression years, Mihaescu said her father once cut down a shade tree from a nearby forest because the family couldn't afford a fir tree. The tree was decorated with paper chains that the children made at school.

"The tree just had a few old branches on it," Mihaescu said.

Mihaescu said her mother, Gladys, would make sock dolls and other items at the sewing machine for the children.

"She always made sure we had nice clothes to go to church in," Mihaescu said.

Helen Feldhauser of Grayling said families and friends supported one another to get through the holidays.

Feldhauser, formerly Helen Isenhauer, said her mother, Grace, was known for making cookies and popcorn balls.

"We were all poor but

everybody had plenty to eat," she said.

Feldhauser said the children would slide down hills in the community on coal shovels and have bonfires. Her father, Len, would also take children for rides in a horse drawn sleigh.

"You didn't do a lot of shopping," Feldhauser said. "You made your own fun. We had a grand time out on the hill."

Glenda Samsel, a niece of Doris Lowe's, recalled hearing how her grandfather David Lowe and his family rode on a hand propelled railroad cart from Deward to Frederic. The family, which included six children, had all the Christmas gifts with the exception of gifts ordered for Leon Lowe.

"It didn't matter if they had it rough throughout the year, they always got something for Christmas and some oranges and things like that," Samsel said.

Irv McIsaac of Grayling said he recalls people having rough times during the Depression.

"For a lot of people, those were pretty lean years," McIsaac said.

McIsaac's father, Owen Floyd McIsaac, however, held a position as a yardman for the railroad in Saginaw and was able to provide for his family during the holidays and throughout the year.

"I'm pretty sure we never felt that," he said. "We were one of the fortunate ones."

Grayling senior Edward Dailey said he grew up during slim times in Lansing when the automotive plants were forced to layoff workers.

"We got an orange, some

clothes and that was what you got for Christmas," he said.

Dailey said a holiday meal with the family and going to church were the main events of Christmas during the Depression.

"Everybody was jolly and would talk with each other and was glad to see each other," Dailey said.

As current headlines about the current economic recession dominate the news, seniors on fixed incomes are dealing with higher prices. Some have changed their Christmas traditions and some have not altered their practices.

Mihaescu said that Christmas cards with money in them are only going to grandchildren and great-grandchildren this year. She said the adults have to fend for themselves for the holidays.

"We decided this year for Christmas, we would suffer right along with the rest of them, and any money we have left over we're going to give to somebody who needs it," she said.

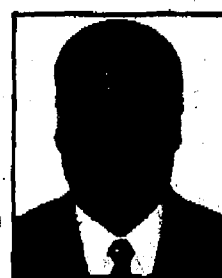
Golnick said he and his wife Sally have purchased gifts and made stockings for their children and their grandchildren. They also hope to pack as many family members as they can into their home for Christmas festivities and a feast.

"You might say that we're having a millionaire's party compared to what we had before," Golnick said.

McIsaac said he has always sent money to his children and grandchildren for the holidays and is keeping with that practice this year.

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Scouts help out at Hanson Hills



The scouts and adult leaders of Grayling Boy Scout Troop 995 recently helped Hanson Hills prepare for the upcoming ski season by constructing shelving and racks to accommodate and organize equipment within the rental room at the lodge. They tackled three separate projects, including a rolling ski rack that will hold 54 sets of downhill skis, shelving for 42 pairs of downhill ski boots and a new and improved rack revamped to hold 180 pairs of ski poles. "It is a win-win situation," said Scoutmaster Jim Pickell. "Hanson Hills gets a great makeover and the scouts get service time to put towards their ranks."

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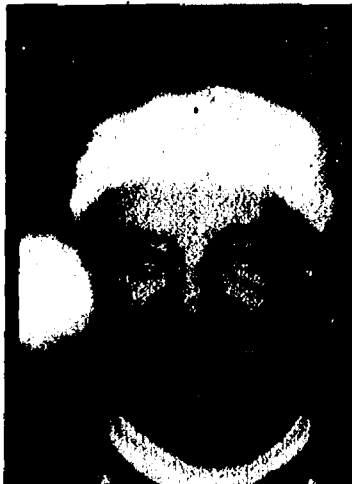
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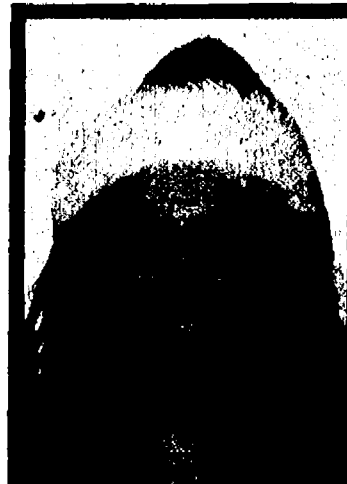
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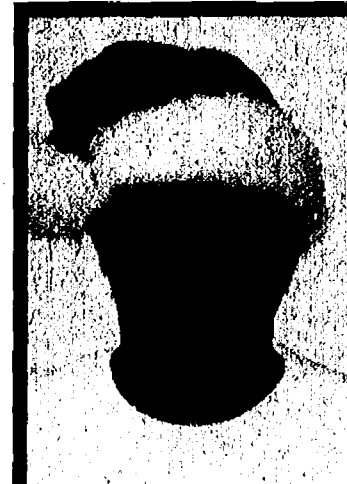
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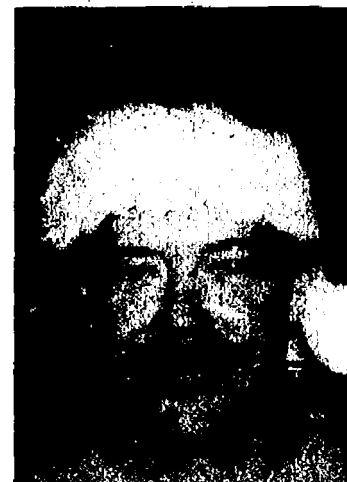
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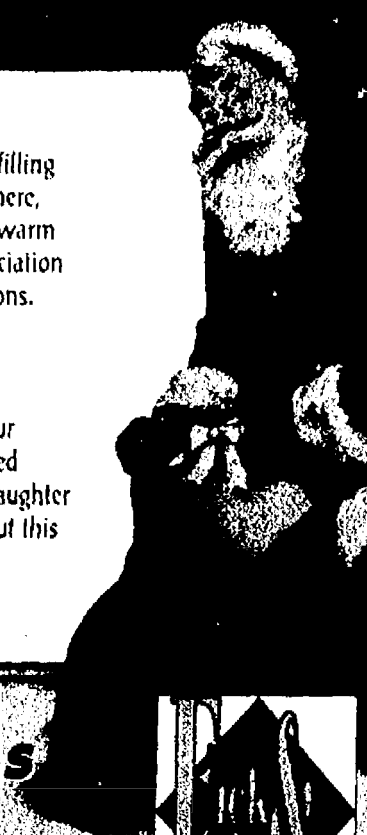
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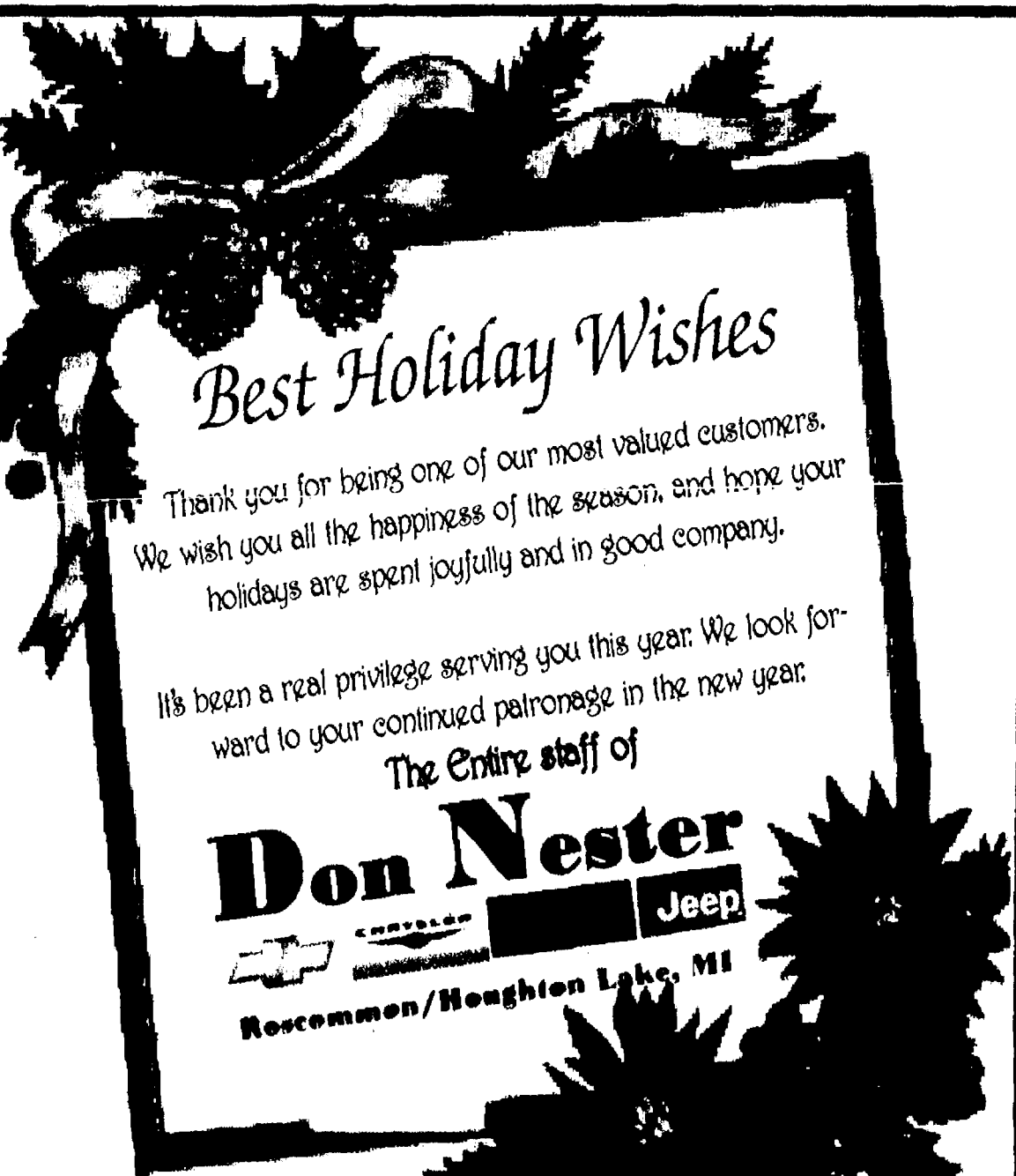
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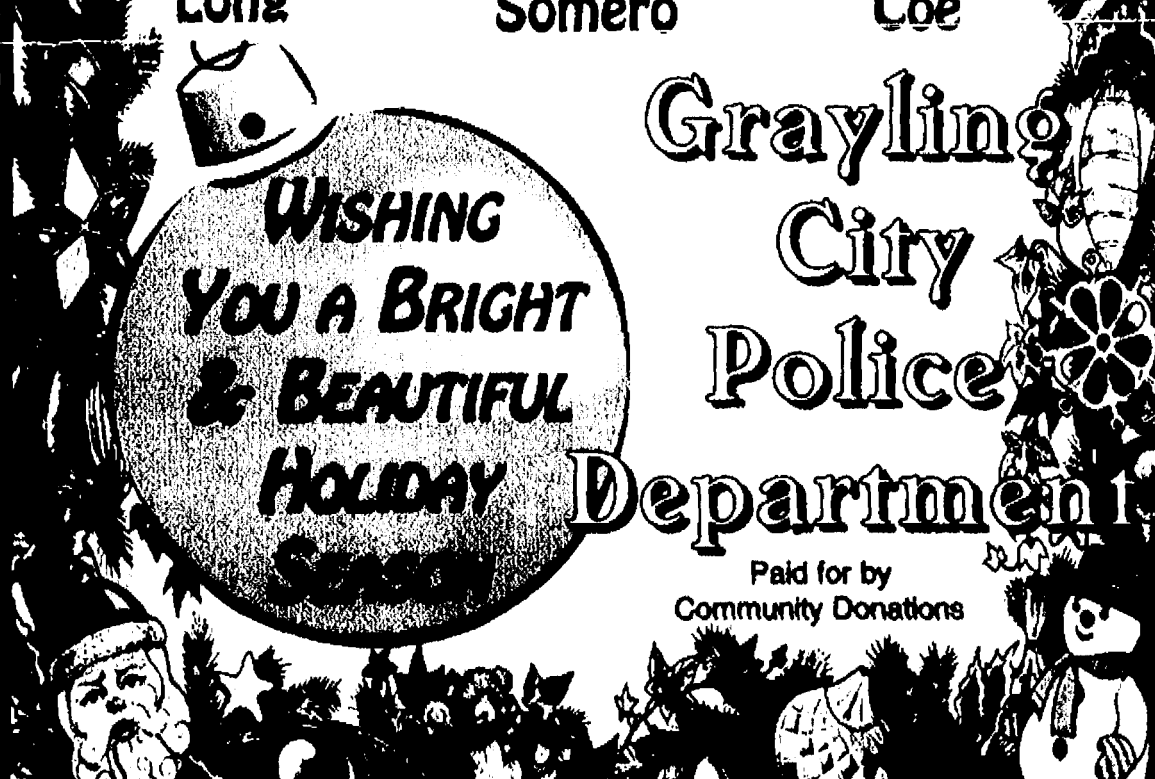


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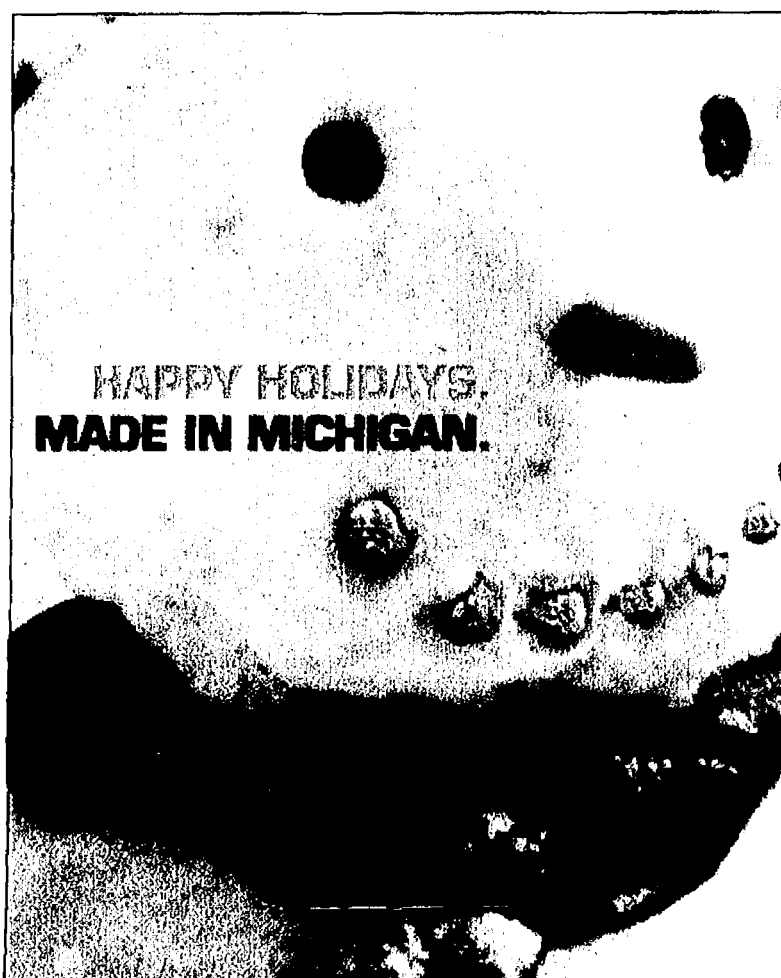
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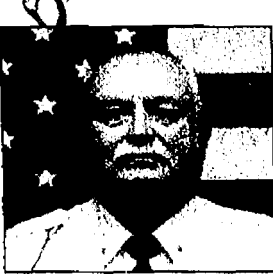
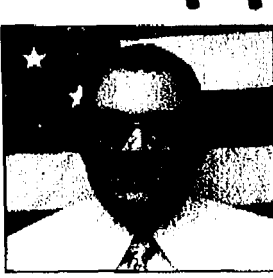



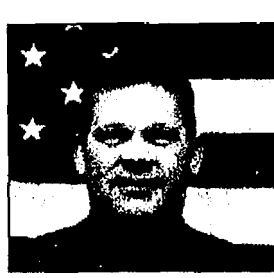
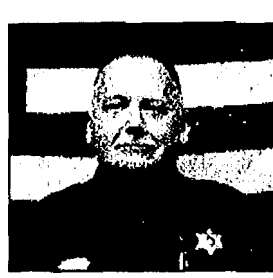
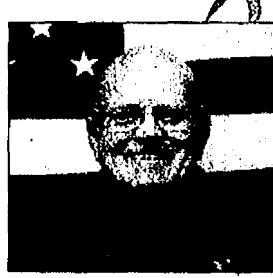

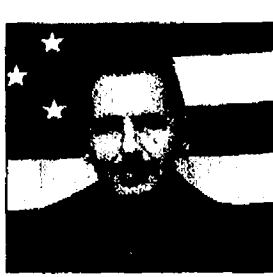
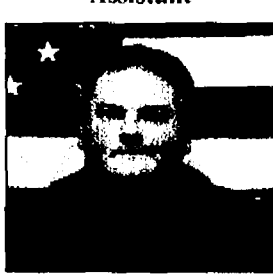
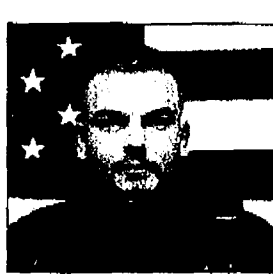
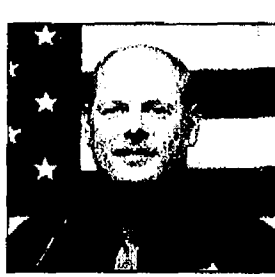
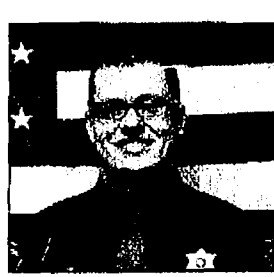
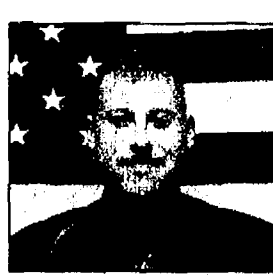
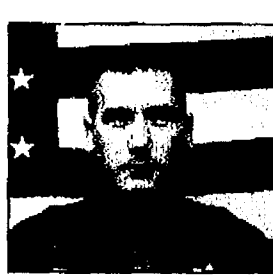

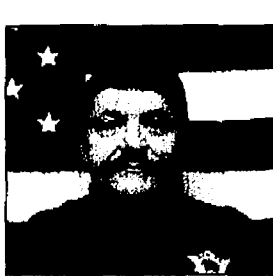
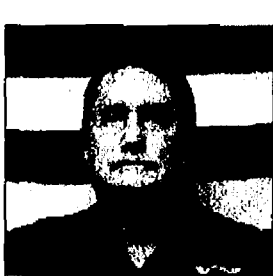


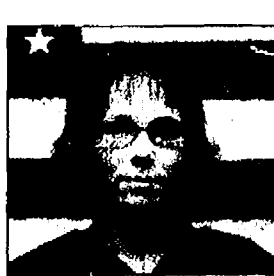
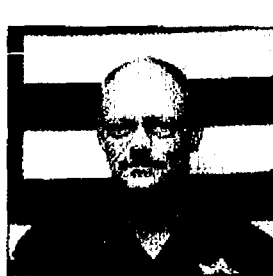
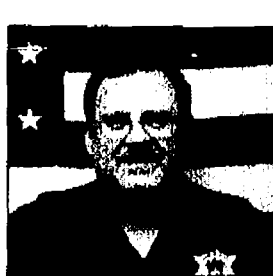




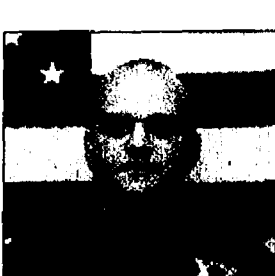
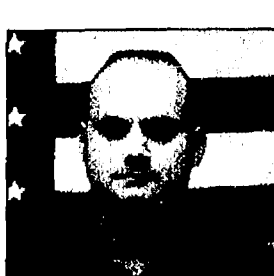
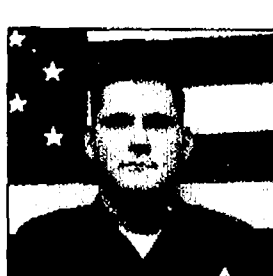
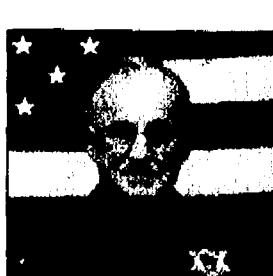
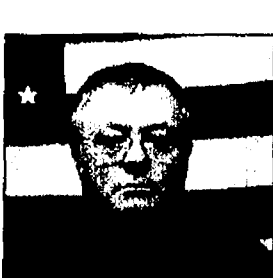
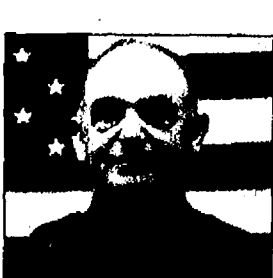
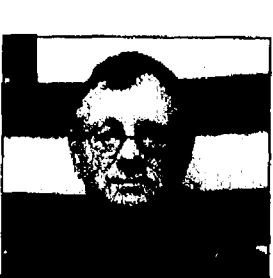

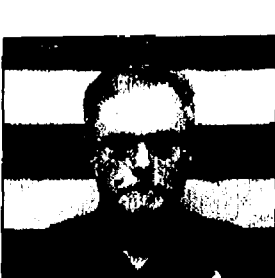
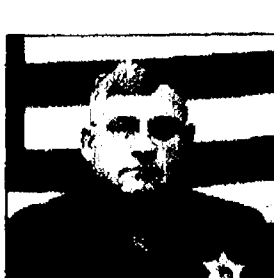
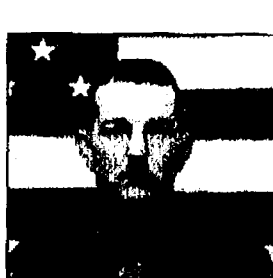
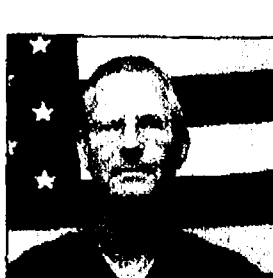
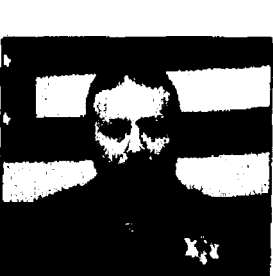


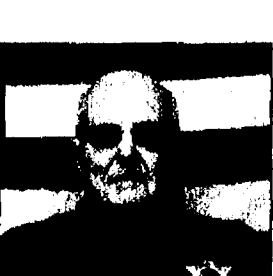
Back Row-Dr. Aubry, Denae, Dr. Dean,
Shawn, Cory
Front Row-Dusty, Dee, Michelle, Cindy

**In This
Season
Of Hope**

*Christmas is more than a holiday, it's a time to reflect on all the
friendships and blessings we've enjoyed in the past year.
We feel truly fortunate to count you among them and hope you
will join us in wishing for worldwide peace this holiday season.*

William Dean,  Robert Aubry,
O.D. AUSABLE EYE CARE O.D.
904 Michigan Ave. Grayling 989-348-3211

Happy Holidays from All of us...

 Kirk Wakefield Sheriff	 Shawn Krays Undersheriff	 Tina Bassett Administrative Assistant	 Theresa Andrews Chief Records Clerk	 Art Clough Captain	 Randy Baerlocher Sergeant	 Randy Herman Sergeant	 Paul Smith Deputy
 John McDonald Deputy	 Conrad Niederhouse Deputy	 Shawn Schnoor Deputy	 Ryan Swope Deputy	 Shon Chmielewski Deputy	 Chase Barnett Deputy	 John Klepadlo Deputy	 Jason Alexander School Liaison Officer
 Scott Feldhauser Captain	 Jim Gornick Sergeant	 Mike Kelly Corrections Officer	 Sue Wells Corrections Officer	 Amanda Rohn Corrections Officer	 Renee Christman Corrections Officer	 Donald Chopper Steffes Corrections Officer	 Tim Stephan Corrections Officer
 Brian Shepherd Corrections Officer	 Joel Avalos Corrections Officer	 Joni Malone Corrections Officer	 Karl DeVries Seasonal Officer	 Steve Eddy Seasonal Officer	 Dave Gillahan Seasonal Officer	 John Huspen Seasonal Officer	 Walt Mikula Seasonal Officer
 Jimmy Parker Seasonal Officer	 Jeff Pendergraft Seasonal Officer	 Mike Stearns Seasonal Officer	 Matt Swope Seasonal Officer	 Wade Davis Reserve Member	 Frank Homola Reserve Member	 Gary Morse Reserve Member	 Rodney Ney Reserve Member
 Randy Richardson Reserve Member	 J.C. Schneider Reserve Member	 Alex Sendek Reserve Member	 Ron Wood Reserve Member	Crawford County Sheriff's Office			

*Paid for by
Community Donations*



Katie Lange, left, and Mike Olson, right, ski during practice on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Hanson Hills. The Vikings will open their 2009 ski season with a league meet at Boyne Mountain on Thursday, Jan. 8.

Ski team hits the hills, gets ready for 2009 season

Vikings to ski
in league meet
on Jan. 8

by Caleb Casey
Senior Staff Writer

The Grayling High School ski team – a group that has eight boys and six girls this year – started practicing on Nov. 17, got outside on the ski hills for the first time on Dec. 10, and will compete in its first meet of the season in January.

Grayling's boys ski team has eight skiers, including six returners from last year's squad. The team includes Peter Alexander (senior), Mike Olson (junior), Matt Hilbrecht (junior), Brady Coe (junior), Matt Dunkel (sophomore), Mike Harmon (sophomore), Roger Heggie (sophomore), and Scott Kahn (freshman).

The girls team has six skiers: Hannah Smith (senior), Heaven Bergmann (senior), Peggy Currison (sophomore), Ciara Summers (sophomore), Katie Lange (sophomore), and Emily Wingard (freshman).

See **SKI TEAM** | 88



Photos by Caleb Casey

Matt Dunkel, left, balances on one ski during a practice drill on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Hanson Hills. Emily Wingard, right, rides the tow rope at Hanson Hills during practice.

Six Vikings earn all-league honors for football

QB sets several new
passing records at GHS

Grayling High School's varsity football squad recently announced its team awards, all-conference awards, and other honors for the 2008 fall season.

Quarterback Jimmy Osga, who set several new school records for passing this year, was named to the *Bay City Times* Dream Team and the *Associated Press* All-State First Team. Osga was also one of three Vikings to make the Lake Michigan Conference's all-league team.

Osga established new single-season GHS

records this year for passing yards (3,146), passing attempts (438), completions (234), passing touchdowns (32), and total TDs (35). He also set new single-game school records for passing yards (507), passing attempts (74), completions (41), and TD passes (6).

Linebacker Geo Bindschatel, who led the squad in tackles this year with 104, was also named to the LMC's all-league team. Grayling's third all-conference player was Mike Davis, an offensive lineman and linebacker for GHS.

Three Vikings also earned all-league honorable mentions: receivers Eric Ferrigan, Tyler Steffey, and Cody Myers.

Steffey led Grayling in receiving yards with 758. Ferrigan had 599 and Myers finished with 581.

Ferrigan tied Grayling High School's single-game record for receiving TDs (4), and Steffey set a new school record for longest TD reception (94 yards) this year.

At its recent awards banquet, the Vikings announced several team honors for the 2008 season:

Offensive MVP – Osga; Defensive MVP – Bindschatel; Michael Goodrich Award (for best lineman) – Davis; BAHUNA Award – Spencer Dean; Captains Award – Osga, Bindschatel, Davis, Dean.



Jimmy Osga
All-League



Geo Bindschatel
All-League



Mike Davis
All-League

JV basketball team edges Lake City 33-31 on Wednesday

The GHS junior varsity girls basketball squad edged Lake City 33-31 on Wednesday, Dec. 17, in a nonconference game played at Lake City.

"(The) girls played a great defensive game. Offensively, we ran things well, but struggled putting the shots in. We really struggled from the free-throw line. We were 7 of 29 from the line. The girls came out strong in the beginning of the third quarter and gave us a six-point lead off of turnovers and good offensive movement," Coach Craig Hofman said.

"The issue again for us came down to fouls. Lake City was able to stay in the game because they hit their free throws. They had 15 points off of free throws. Luckily for us, they missed the front end of a two-shot opportunity with two seconds left. They shot the ball off the rim and got it back, but the shot missed and we were able to get the rebound to end the game," Coach Hofman said. "A lot of girls contributed and really worked hard. It was important to finally win one of the close games we have had. It was a nice rebound from the game before, where we did not come out and play hard."

Leading scorers for GHS included: Kirstie Wakeley, 12 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal; Shalee Miller, 6 points, 1 steal; Ann Hamlin, 5 points, 9 rebounds, 2 steals; Kristen Todoroff, 4 points, 5 rebounds.

See **JV BASKETBALL** | 88

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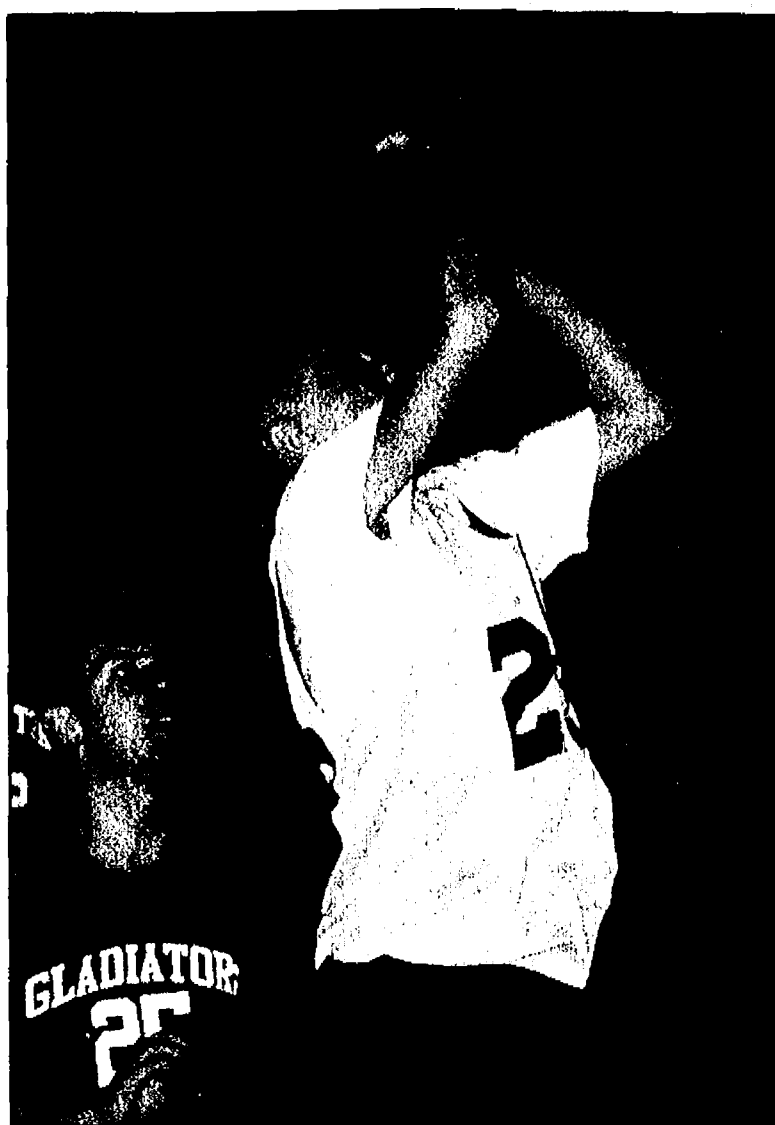
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 111100 Model also available (heats 1500 sq. ft.)

GMS Basketball



Photos by Caleb Casey

Jake Swander, left, drives to the basket during Tuesday's 7th grade "green" boys basketball game vs. Traverse City St. Francis. Scott Wakely, right, dribbles the ball for the "green" team.

Crawford County Transportation Authority

Weekday Scheduled Services to:

FREDERIC & MAPLE FOREST
 Leaves Grayling 5:45 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 6:45 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 9:00 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 11:30 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 1:15 p.m.
 Leaves Grayling 3:30 p.m.
 Leaves Grayling 5:00 p.m.

LOVELLS
 Leaves Grayling 9:00 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 11:30 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 1:30 p.m.
 Leaves Grayling 3:30 p.m.
 Leaves Grayling 5:00 p.m.

M-72 EAST
 Leaves Grayling 6:00 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 6:45 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 7:00 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 11:30 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 1:30 p.m.
 Leaves Grayling 3:30 p.m.
 Leaves Grayling 5:00 p.m.

BEAVER CREEK & ROSCOMMON
 Leaves Grayling 7:30 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 11:00 a.m.
 Leaves Grayling 1:00 p.m.*
 Leaves Grayling 2:15 p.m.
 Leaves Grayling 4:30 p.m.
 *The 1:00 p.m. south run does not go all the way into Roscommon.

To request weekday demand response services call dispatch @ 348-5409

M-72 WEST
 Demand response service calls worked in between other runs.

RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVE TRIPS

Individuals requiring transportation for specialty medical services not locally available may qualify for RHI medical transportation services.

Information regarding RHI medical transportation services can be obtained by contacting: Julee Dean @ 348-8215

SPECIAL EVENT TRIPS:

Scheduled For January 2009

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Turtle Creek Casino
Call to reserve you seat today!

To reserve seats or request information concerning special event trips call Julee @ 348-8215

COMMUNITY EVENT SERVICES:

Service schedules may be modified to meet increased demand during special community events. Such as the Milltown Festival.

To request information concerning expanded services call Richard @ 348-4101

7th grade green (boys) – Grayling Middle School's 7th grade "green" boys basketball squad defeated Traverse City St. Francis and Kalkaska last week to end its season with a 10-1 overall record.

On Tuesday night, the Vikings hosted Traverse City St. Francis.

Grayling got off to a solid start and led 10-0 at the end of the first quarter.

"(Our) pressure defense created many turnovers and they held St. Francis to only one shot in the first quarter. St. Francis made some adjustments and won the second quarter, but (we had) a 17-11 lead at halftime. (We) then made some adjustments and held St. Francis to seven second half points," Coach Doug Pummell said.

Grayling won by 10, 28-18.

Leading scorers were Justice Junttila (10), Tyler McClanahan (7), Jake Swander (6), and Matt Burrell (5).

"This win avenged the (team's) only loss to St. Francis earlier in the season. The team did a great job breaking the press of St. Francis, which led to many easy opportunities on offense. The whole team

knew where to be and protected the ball while looking up court for the open man," Coach Pummell said.

On Wednesday, the Vikings defeated Kalkaska 35-16 at GMS.

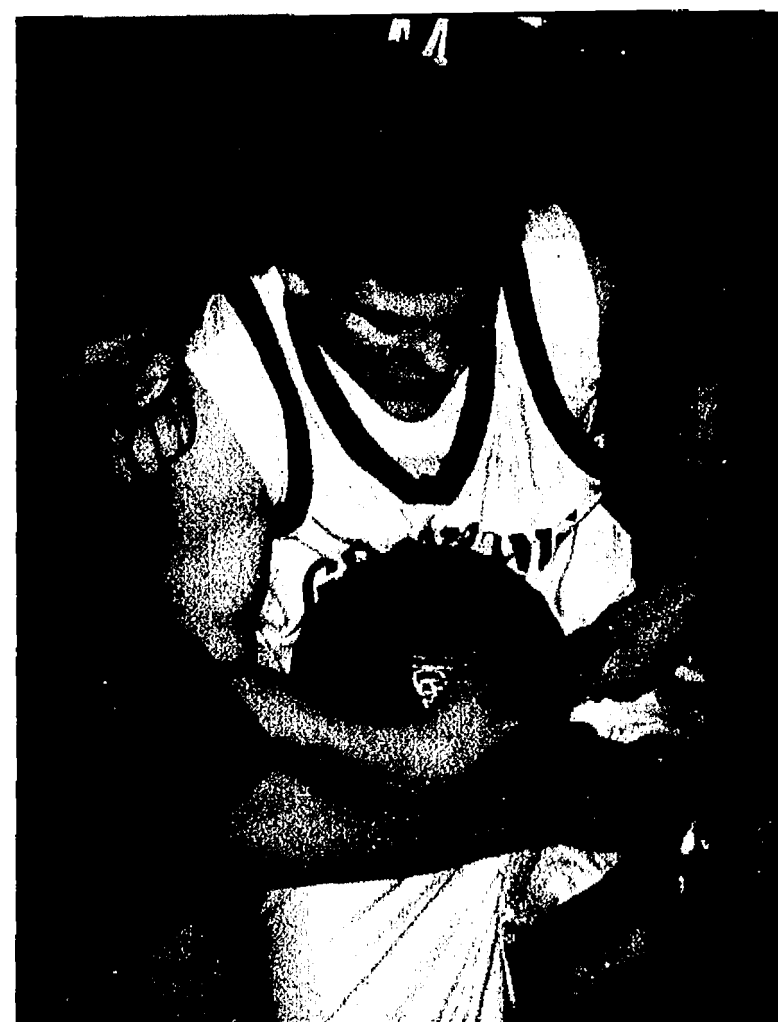
Scoring leaders for Grayling were Swander (10), McClanahan (8), Junttila (7), and Burrell (5).

"We tried changing our defense in the first quarter and were behind 6-4, so we went back to what had been working all season and it helped us end the season with a win," Coach Pummell said.

The Vikings finished their 11-game schedule with 10 wins and one loss.

"It was a great season and this group will be fun to watch the next few years. Team consisted of Brandon Latusek, who was one of the top ball handlers and defenders, Michael

Branch, who improved greatly at boxing out and cutting to the basket, Tyler McClanahan, a slasher and good shooter, Jake Swander, who works hard all the time and has a good all-around game, Richie Sanford, who improved greatly at rebounding and defense, Scott Wakely, who has a nice move to the basket and has improved his overall skills, Matt Burrell, who was our playmaker and



Jeff Enos fights for a loose ball during the 8th grade "green" team's game vs. TCSF.

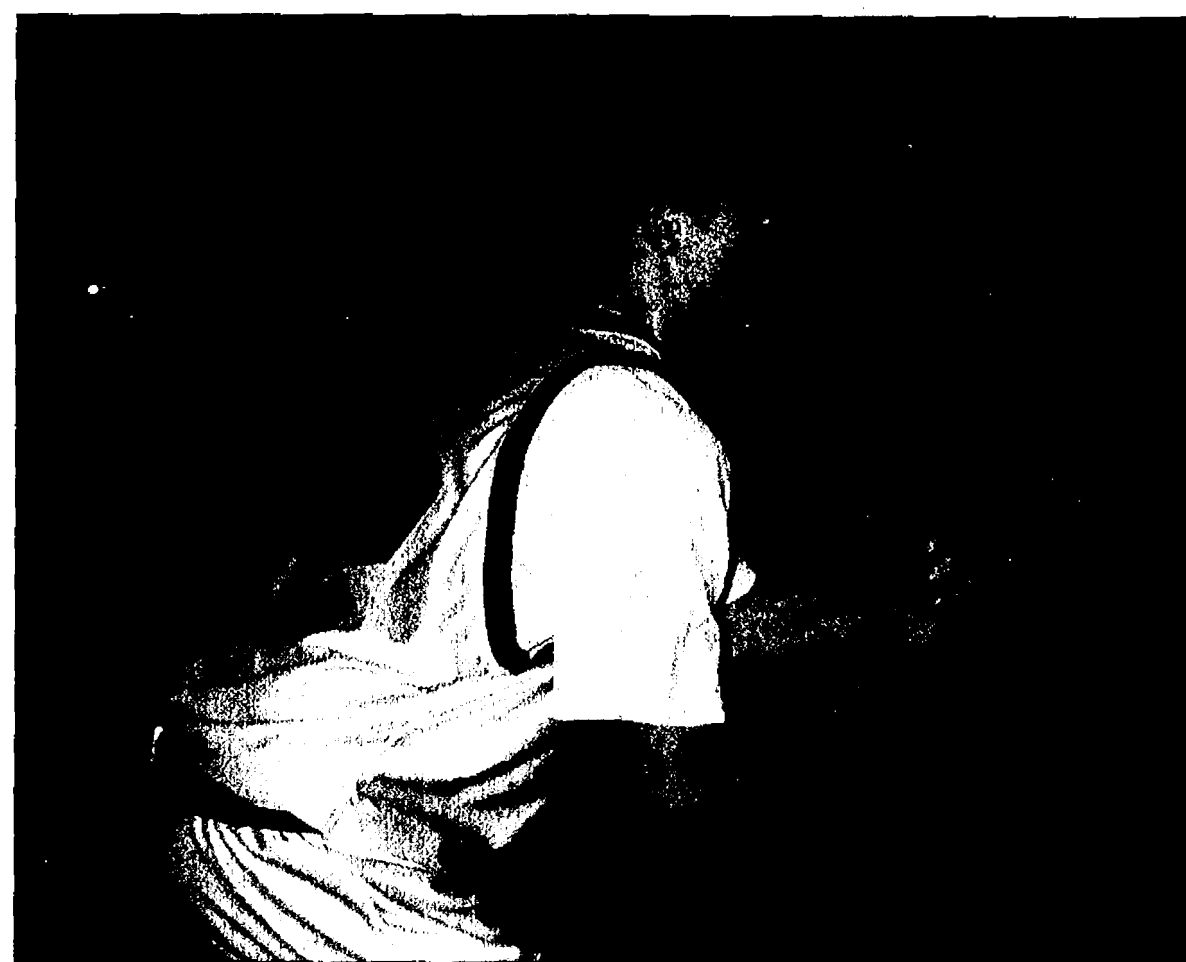
tough defender, Justice Junttila, a post player who really helped us in scoring the last two weeks, Peyton Zigala, who developed into a very good rebounder and top defender, and Mitchell Thompson, who has a solid all-around game and improved a lot over the season," Coach Pummell said.

8th grade green (boys) – The GMS 8th grade "green" boys basketball squad lost a home game vs. Traverse

City St. Francis on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

TCSF led 11-6 at the end of the first quarter. Grayling trailed by one point, 15-14, at halftime. Traverse City St. Francis took a five-point lead into the fourth period. TCSF won by seven, 37-30.

Leading scorers for the Vikings: Jeff Enos (8), Scott Parkinson (7), Wes Dean (6), Mason Krey (4), Tyler Powers (3), Levi Korneli (2).



Wes Dean sets up for a shot during last Tuesday's 8th grade "green" boys basketball game at Grayling Middle School.

Bowling Leagues

Recreation League

GMH-NCC.....6-2
 Glen's Market.....6-2
 Robin Smith CPA...5-3
 Days Inn.....5-3
 Woody Girls.....4-4
 American Legion...3-5
 Grayling Nursing...3-5
 TNT Charter.....0-8
 High Series: S. Johnson, 558; G. Swope, 499; P. D'Amour, 477. High Game: S. Johnson, 195; D. Worth, 194; T. Hamey, 187.

National First

Continental Rental...6-31

GADCO.....53-45
 Hagerman Const...52-46
 Pittman Bld.....50-48
 Primary Electric...44-54
 High Series: R. Pittman, 581; D. Henning, 572; M. D'Amour, 564. High Game: M. D'Amour, 256; C. Golnick, 224; J. Arwood, 214.

Senior League

Dana Transport....37-23
 Lone Pine.....33-27
 Gaylord Electric...32-28
 Flowers By Josie...32-28
 Kicking Grass....31-29

Spike's.....29-31
 Sylvester's Sports..28-32
 Bear's Den Pizza...20-40
 High Series Women: C. Clark, 519; M. Rysso, 475; H. Stairs, 465. High Game Women: C. Clark, 181; I. Cosgray, 167; H. Stairs, 166. High Series Men: D. Williamson, 581; B. Hollis, 576; P. Faustman, 526. High Game Men: B. Hollis, 254; L. Crampton, 211; D. Williamson, 209.

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To find out more about our great lending products or to find a mortgage lender near you, visit us at www.chemicalbankmi.com, stop by your local Chemical Bank office, or call 1-866-800-2627.



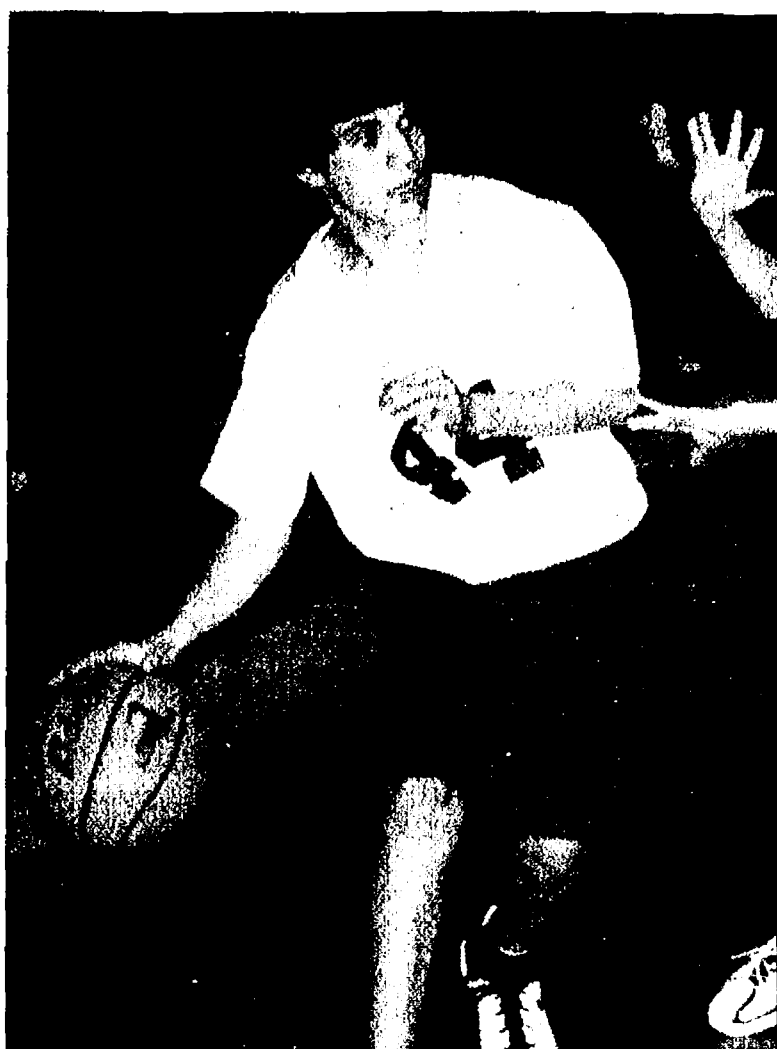
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 **Subject to credit approval. APR-Annual Percentage Rate. In order to receive the promotional rate, all payments must be automatically deducted from a Chemical Bank account, or rate would be 5.805%/6.075% APR.



GMS Basketball



Photos by Caleb Casey

C.J. White, left, shoots for the GMS 7th grade "white" team on Tuesday. Geoff Wilson, right, handles the ball for the 7th grade "white" squad during last week's game vs. Traverse City.

7th grade white (boys) – Grayling Middle School's 7th grade "white" boys basketball team finished its 2008 season with a 33-20 victory vs. Kalkaska on Wednesday.

"The team again played well defensively, often rotating to help teammates. Offensively, they cut down the turnovers, showed better patience running their sets, and shot better," Coach John

Junttila said.

Leading scorers for Grayling included: Geoff Wilson (12), Nick Swiercz (6), Tyler Summers (5), Nick Smock (4), C.J. White (2), Lucas Walesky (2), Dylan Stowell (2).

"Gage Albright and Amar Patel also contributed with defense and rebounds," Coach Junttila said.

The Vikings lost their pre-

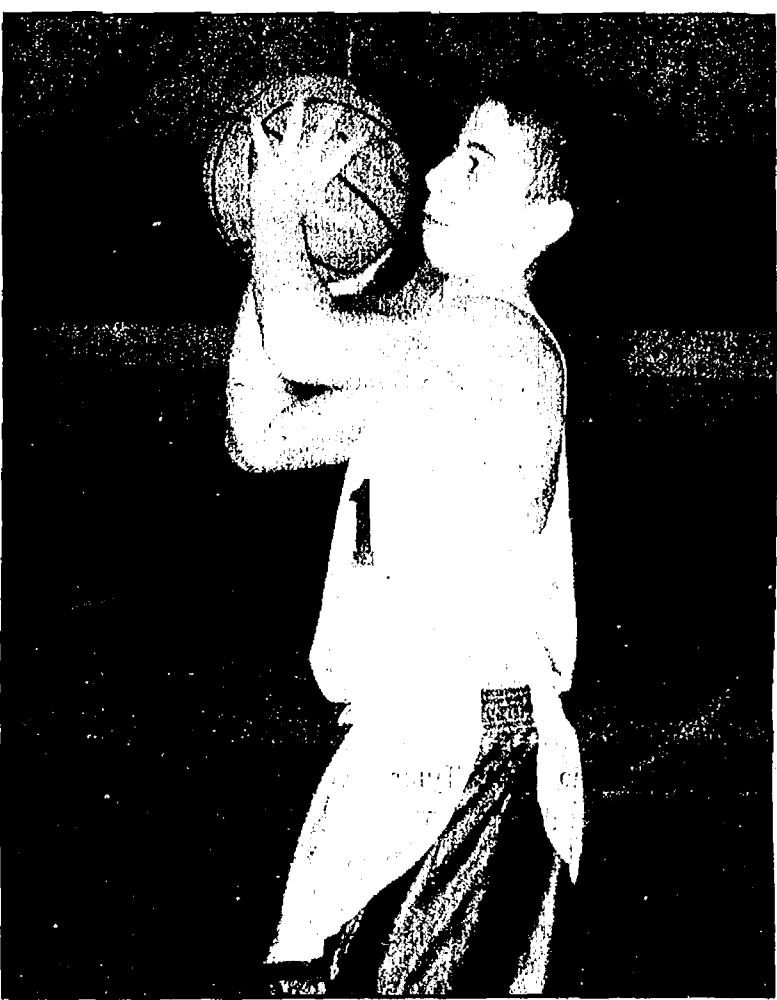
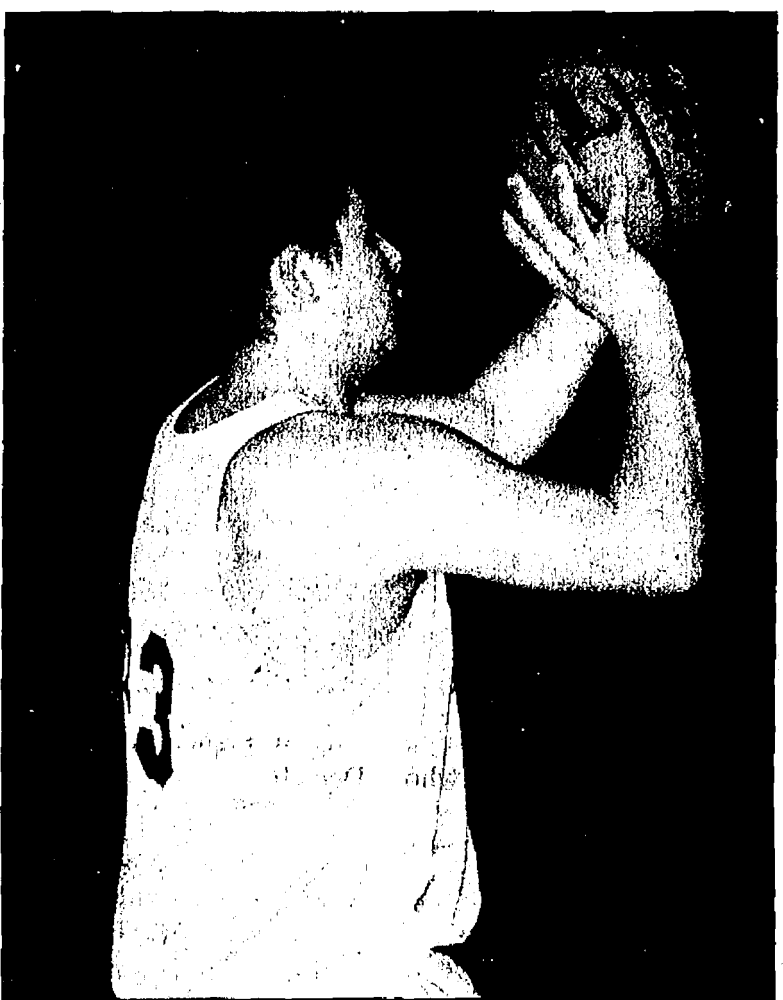
vious two games – a contest at Elk Rapids on Dec. 10 (28-12) and a home game vs. Traverse City St. Francis on Dec. 16 (12-9).

"Except for one quarter against Elk Rapids, the team played well defensively in both games," Coach Junttila said. "Unfortunately, we had too many turnovers and shot poorly both nights."

"The (players) worked

hard all season and it was nice to close with a win," Coach Junttila said. "I hope they continue to work on their skills and build on what they have learned."

8th grade white (boys) – The Grayling Middle School 8th grade "white" boys basketball squad lost 27-10 to Traverse City St. Francis on Tuesday night in a contest played at GMS.



Jacob Robinson, left, and Trent Flynn, right, shoot for Grayling Middle School's 8th grade "white" boys basketball team on Tuesday night.

Legal Action

STATE OF MICHIGAN 46TH TRIAL COURT COUNTY OF CRAWFORD - PROBATE DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

File No. 08-7517- DE
Estate of HATTIE M. JOHNSON, Decedent, Date of birth: August 13, 1913
TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Hattie M. Johnson, who lived at 1100 Michigan Avenue, Grayling, Michigan 49738, died November 10, 2000.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to William C. Johnson, named personal representative, or to both the Crawford County Probate Court, at 200 W. Michigan Avenue, Grayling, Michigan 49738, and the named Personal Representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 16, 2008

Attorney
Ronald J. Kirkpatrick (P24887)
KIRKPATRICK & DuBOIS
P.L.C.
213 East Main, Second Floor
Gaylord, MI 49735
(989) 732-2912

Personal Representative
William C. Johnson
850 S. Wisconsin
Gaylord, MI 49735

GRAYLING CHARTER

TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2008

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Monica Ashton, Duane Brooks, Shawn Krayes, Dennis Long, Linda Munsey, Cindy Olson, Terry Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Dixon, Lacey Stephan III, Dave Stephenson, Bob McIntosh, Dennis Wallace.

Supervisor Wright called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Grayling City/Township Fire Department Mutual Fire Protection Agreement
2. Authorization to change health insurance agent with Blue Cross.

The two newly elected trustees, Linda Munsey and Duane Brooks, were welcomed by the Board.

Dave Stephenson, Dennis Wallace, Bob McIntosh, and John Jones (not present), who volunteered for a citizens advisory committee to encourage a resolution to the City/Township Fire Department issues were present to report their findings.

Stephenson said the committee had met separately with the City Manager, the Township Supervisor and some Township Board mem-

bers, and The City Council.

Findings: No one wants two separate fire departments.

A five member joint administrative board for the City/Township Fire Department can be set up under P.A. 33 Sec. 41.811. There would be no fire department members on this board and the Fire Chief would report to the board.

Opinion: Do not sign the 10 year contract. Sign a one or two year contract to allow time for set up of administrative board. Do not drop the lawsuit but ask the court to post-pone it.

1. Motion by Long, second by Krayes, to sign and return the October 1, 2008 Mutual Fire Protection Agreement to the City Council with the following changes.

Page 1. Omit the second "whereas" paragraph.

Page 2B-1. Meet semi-annually or more often if interest exists by either party.

Page 3 2-B Strike 2009 and insert "for the duration of the contract percentage is 60% Township and 40% city."

Page 3 2-C Omit
Page 3 3 Strike ten (10) years and replace with two (2) years effective at signing.

If these changes and working toward a joint administrative board are agreed to by both parties the township will terminate the current legal action.

Long, aye; Krayes, aye; Brooks, aye; Munsey, aye; Olson, aye; Ashton, aye; Wright, aye. Nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Motion by Long, second by Krayes, to allow Olson to abstain from action on health care agent. Ayes, 6; Nays, none; Abstain, one. Motion carried.

3. Motion by Krayes, second by Brooks, to authorize the change of our local Blue Cross/Blue Shield

representative to Farm Bureau Insurance Co with Herb Olson as agent for the purpose of exploring cost savings that will not decrease current employee benefit levels, but decrease premiums. This decision is based on current agent inattentiveness.

4. Motion by Olson, second by Ashton, to adjourn (11:40 a.m.) All ayes, motion carried.

Monica Ashton, C.M.C.
Grayling Charter Township Clerk

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at the number listed below.

MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by: Chad Hawley and Amy Hawley, Husband and Wife to

Olympus Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated November 29, 2004 and recorded December 9, 2004 in Liber 672 Page 826 Crawford County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage was assigned through mesne assignments to: Wells Fargo Bank, NA as Trustee under Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of February 1, 2005 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005 WHQ1, by assignment dated December 6, 2004 and recorded March 12, 2008 in Liber 690, Page 579, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Thirteen Cents (\$72,828.13) including interest 9.275% per annum.

INSURANCE IS A CONSTANTLY CHANGING INDUSTRY. You often have questions that need to be answered. We will expertly guide you through the confusion of coverage and cost.

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Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Circuit Court of Crawford County at 10:00AM on January 7, 2009

Said premises are situated in Township of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 11, Block 1, Brink's Park, Township of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1, Page 33, Crawford County Records

Commonly known as 210 Rolla, Grayling MI 49738
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale,

unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later.

Dated: NOVEMBER 25, 2008
Wells Fargo Bank, NA as Trustee under Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of February 1, 2005 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005 WHQ1.

Assignee of Mortgagee
Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C.
811 South Blvd, Suite 100
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248) 844-5123

Our File No: 08-02137-4-11-18-25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Grayling City Council will hold a public hearing as a step to close out a grant received from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation funding under the Michigan Community Development Block Grant Program Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement Grant Program (CDBG-ICE). The grant allowed the City to complete the Michigan Avenue Infrastructure and Streetscape Project. The project cost \$1,006,124 of which \$415,814 was federal funds and \$590,310 was local funds. The hearing is held to receive comments on the impact of the project to the community.

The public hearing will be held on Monday, January 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grayling City Hall, located at 1020 City boulevard, Grayling, Michigan.

All interested persons are invited to attend this public hearing.

Michele A. Moshier
City Clerk

Legal Action

GRAYLING CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Members Present: Dennis Long, Shawn Krayes, Cindy Olson, Monica Ashton, Terry Wright.

Members Absent: Two vacant positions.

Others Present: Mike Ingalls, Mike Duffy, Linda Munsey, Duane Brooks, Rhonda Lansky, Randy Sedgwick, Alice Snyder, Bob Dixon, Chris Jones, Mike Campbell, John Wotring.

Supervisor Wright called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor noted that following this meeting Oaths of office will be given to the re-elected and newly elected Township Board members and constable. Terms of office begin at 12:00 noon, November 20, 2008.

1. Motion by Long, second by Krayes, to appoint the two newly elected trustees, Duane Brooks and Linda Munsey, to fill the remaining term of office so they may participate in this meeting. Ayes, none; Nays, five; Absent, two vacant positions. Motion failed.

It was noted that the terms of office for the two additional trustees, required to be elected at the next general election following our becoming a charter township, begins at 12:00 noon, November 20, 2008.

2. Correspondence (No action required) A. Monthly building permit list. B. Emergency Central Dispatch Report.

3. Motion by Olson, second by Ashton, to approve the minutes of September 17, 2008 as presented. Ayes, five; Nays, none; Absent, two vacant positions. Motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report for September was received and placed on file.

5. There were no citizens who wished to speak on items not on the agenda.

6. Alice Snyder, Director, Commission on Aging, was present to request Township's support of investigating the possibility of using the County property, leased by the Township, that lies on the corner of N Down River Rd and Roberts Rd west of the East Branch of the Ausable River, as location for new home of the Commission on Aging.

Motion by Long, second by Olson, to facilitate the use of the Township Park property, lying west of the East Branch of the Ausable River, by the Commission on Aging for their new facility, if research shows it is a viable option for them. Ayes, five; Nays, none; Absent, two vacant positions. Motion carried.

7. Motion by Olson, second by Krayes, to adopt the following resolution regarding the Crawford County Recreation Plan:

RECREATION PLAN RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

WHEREAS, The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) has prepared a draft "Crawford County Recreation Plan-2008-2013" and WHEREAS, Grayling Charter Township has been included within this plan for recreational purposes, and

WHEREAS, The plan will cover the years 2008-2013, with additions and changes as needed, and WHEREAS, A public comment session has been conducted concerning this plan and public input has been accepted regarding this plan

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Grayling Charter Township hereby adopts the "Crawford County Recreation Plan 2008-2013" as its own Recreation Plan.

Ayes, five; Nays, none; Absent, two vacant positions. Motion carried.

8. Motion by Long, second by Krayes, to adopt Resolution of Support to establish an Industrial Development District for the purpose of allowing an industrial facilities tax exemption on personal property equipment purchased by:

IMM, Inc
758 Isenhauer Rd.
Grayling, MI 49738

WHEREAS, Grayling Charter Township is a legal subdivision of Crawford County, Michigan, and WHEREAS, the residents, businesses, and industries located within in Grayling Charter Township are encouraged to enhance the local economy through certain prerequi-

site programs offered by their federal, state and local governments, and WHEREAS, IMM, Inc. (040-41-005-12-025-00) is a legal business located within Grayling Charter Township, which fabricates and installs industrial equipment throughout North America, and WHEREAS, IMM, Inc. desires to enhance their fabrication capabilities by purchasing various new pieces of equipment, including a large integrated thermal cutting and marking machine, which will cost several hundred thousand dollars, and

WHEREAS, through the purchase of this machinery, IMM, Inc. qualifies for an industrial facilities tax exemption through Public Act 198 of 1974 (as amended), and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of Grayling Charter Township hereby approves the immediate establishment of an Industrial Development District on the property of IMM, Inc., owned in whole by Morton Street Investments, L.L.C., of 333 Morton Street, Bay City, Michigan 48706, and

FURTHER, the Board of Trustees of Grayling Charter Township requests an approval, through PA 198, of an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption on all machinery purchases, of fifty percent (50%) of its personal property value for a period of twelve years (12).

Ayes, five; Nays, none; Absent, two vacant positions. Motion carried.

9. Refuse transfer contract with Waste Management at the compactor station expires 11-30-08. Current cost is \$629.76 per 40 yard container removal. May renew with a 3% per year increase for five years. Motion by Long, second by Olson, to contract with Arrow Sanitation, L.L.C. for removal of refuse containers from compactor for one year. Rates: 40 yard @ \$250.00 per haul and \$39.00 per ton which averages \$530.00 per haul. Large item 30 yard dumpster \$500.00. No fuel service charge. Ayes, five; Nays, none; Absent, two vacant positions. Motion carried.

10. Motion by Olson, second by Krayes, that Supervisor notify Crawford County that we will no longer accept recyclables from other townships as of January 1, 2009, unless county is willing to pay for another halftime employee in the recycling center. Currently county pays for one halftime employee (\$8,000.00per year), new employee would be in addition.

None of the other townships, nor the city pay for the use of the recycling facility. The county may want to make that request or the county may want to offer to outright purchase the township recycling center and take over total operations. Ayes, five; Nays, none; Absent, two vacant positions. Motion carried.

11. Motion by Long, second by Olson, to authorize purchase of four chairs for the conference table (five if on sale) in the township hall. Ayes, five; Nays, none; Absent, two vacant positions. Motion carried.

12. Other matters: Long requests that township attorney provide a monthly, by case, statement.

13. Motion by Krayes, second by Olson, to approve payment of claims on vouchers 6926 through 6969. Liquor inspections \$120.00. Election Inspectors 11-4-08 \$3,154.57. Fire Dept Mortgage qly \$11,040.71 for a grand total of \$61,811.14. Ayes, five; Nays, none; Absent, two vacant positions.

Monica Ashton, C.M.C.
Grayling Township Clerk

FORECLOSURE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Dennis K Kaiser and Therese M Kaiser, husband and wife, to New Century Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated February 12, 2005 and recorded February 28, 2005 in Liber 673, Page 951, Crawford County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by US Bank National Association, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series NC 2005-HF34 by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Nine Thousand Two Hundred Eighty and 25/100 Dollars (\$109,280.25) including interest at 9.375% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front door of the County Building in Grayling in Crawford County,

Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on JANUARY 21, 2009. Said premises are located in the Township of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 9, Whippoorwill, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2, Page 51 and 52, of Plats, Crawford County Records. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: December 18, 2008 Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys For Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 231.6740 ASAP# 2945258 12/18/2008, 12/25/2008, 01/01/2009, 01/08/2009

-18-25-1-8

FORECLOSURE

AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTIFY (248) 362-6100 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Scott D. Myers and Lisa Myers, husband and wife of Crawford County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Wilmington Finance, a division of AIG Federal Savings Bank dated the 10th day of November, A.D. 2005, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Crawford and State of Michigan, on the 17th day of November, A.D. 2005, Liber 678, Page 519 of Crawford Records, which said mortgage was assigned to US Bank National Association ND, thru mesne assignments, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of \$145,961.84 (one hundred forty-five thousand nine hundred sixty-one and 84/100) plus accrued interest at 7.70% (seven point seven zero) percent per annum. And no suit proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof. Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on, the 21st day of January, A.D., 2009, at 10:00:00 AM said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the front door to the County Bldg in Grayling, MI, Crawford County, Michigan, of the premises described in said mortgage. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Township of Maple Forest, in the County of Crawford and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Township of Maple Forest, County of Crawford, Michigan: Lots 25 and 26, GREENACRE SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 40, Crawford County Records. Commonly known as: 5061 Green Acres Drive PPN: 20-020-060-000-025-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: December 18, 2008 WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A. By: Michael I. Rich (P-41938) Attorney for Plaintiff Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 2155 Butterfield Drive Suite 200-S Troy, MI 48084 WWR# 10017988 ASAP# 2946214 12/18/2008, 12/25/2008, 01/01/2009, 01/08/2009

-18-25-1-8

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at the number listed below.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by: Anita P. Wise, a single woman to Northwestern Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated August 5, 2003 and recorded August 15, 2003 in Liber 647 Page 421 Crawford County Records, Michigan on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars and Fifty-One Cents (\$93,855.51) including interest 5.25% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, Circuit Court of Crawford County at 10:00AM on January 28, 2009

Said premises are situated in Township of South Branch, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lot Numbered 25 and 26, Hiawatha Park, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, page 43, Crawford County Records

Commonly known as 897 Cherokee Trail, Roscommon MI 48653

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later.

Dated: DECEMBER 18, 2008 Northwestern Mortgage Company Mortgagee Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C.

811 South Blvd. Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123

Our File No: 08-01607 -25-1-8-15

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Matthew S. Beattie a/k/a Matt S. Beattie, a single man, original mortgagor(s), to JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA, Mortgagee, dated December 7, 2007, and recorded on December 17, 2007 in Liber 689 on Page 603, in Crawford county records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Chase Home Finance LLC as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Nine And 89/100 Dollars (\$45,809.89), including interest at 7% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 21, 2009. Said premises are situated in Township of Frederic, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 28 North, Range 4 West, thence South on the 1/8 line, 400 feet to the point of Beginning, thence East 125 feet, thence South to North right of way line of Cameron Bridge Road; thence Northwesterly along said right of way line to a point directly South of the point of beginning, thence North to the point of beginning, being a part of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 28 North, Range 4 West. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 18, 2008 For more information, please call: FC S 248.593.1304

Trott & Trott, P.C. Attorneys For Servicer 31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #207111F02

-18-25-1-8

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLEC-

TOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: December 18, 2008 For more information, please call: FC S 248.593.1304

Trott & Trott, P.C. Attorneys For Servicer 31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #207111F02

-18-25-1-8

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLEC-

TOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

TOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Todd A. Gabriel and Kary J. Gabriel, husband and wife, original mortgagor(s), to Amerquest Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated January 28, 2006, and recorded on February 13, 2006 in Liber 689 on Page 48, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for the registered holders of GSAMP Trust 2006-SD3 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-SD3 as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Crawford county records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Three Hundred Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Three And 18/100 Dollars (\$330,473.18), including interest at 6% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 28, 2009. Said premises are situated in Township of Frederic, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: The Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 34, Township 28 North, Range 4 west. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 25, 2008

For more information, please call: FC J 248.593.1311

Trott & Trott, P.C.

Attorneys For Servicer 31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #236734F01

-25-1-8-15

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Brenda Gerow and Theodore R. Gerow, Wife and Husband, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated November 15, 2006, and recorded on November 15, 2006 in Liber 684 on Page 177, in Crawford county records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-FF1 as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Five And 68/100 Dollars (\$60,525.68), including interest at 8.5% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 21, 2009. Said premises are situated in City of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at a point 132 Feet East of the Northwest corner of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of section 3, Town 26 North, Range 2 West, thence South 330.0 Feet, thence East 229.5 Feet, thence West North 330.0 Feet, thence West

229.5 Feet to the point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 18, 2008

For more information, please call: FC G 248.593.1310

Trott & Trott, P.C. Attorneys For Servicer 31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #235592F01

-18-25-1-8

229.5 Feet to the point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 18, 2008

For more information, please call: FC G 248.593.1310

Trott & Trott, P.C. Attorneys For Servicer 31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #235592F01

-18-25-1-8

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT; ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW.

ATTENTION POTENTIAL PURCHASERS AT FORECLOSURE SALE: In the case of resolution prior to or simultaneously with the aforementioned foreclosure sale, Green Tree Servicing LLC (f/k/a Conesco Finance Servicing Corp.) may rescind this sale at any time prior to the end of the redemption period. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited to the return of your bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest.

Default having occurred in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made by William H. Stubblefield and Karla D. Stubblefield, husband and wife, to Green Tree Servicing LLC (f/k/a Conesco Finance Servicing Corp.), dated July 9, 2001, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Crawford in the State of Michigan on August 2, 2001, in Liber 0546, Page(s) 451, et. seq., on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due as of the date of this Notice the sum of \$73,782.86, which amount may or may not be the entire indebtedness owed by William H. Stubblefield and Karla D. Stubblefield, husband and wife, to Green Tree Servicing LLC (f/k/a Conesco Finance Servicing Corp.), together with interest at 9.50 percent per annum.

NOW THEREFORE, Notice is hereby given that the power of sale contained in said Mortgage has become operative and that pursuant to that power of sale and MCL 600.3201 et. seq., on January 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., in the Lobby of the Courthouse in Grayling, Michigan, that being the place for holding the Circuit Court and/or for conducting such foreclosure sales for the County of Crawford, there will be offered at public sale, the premises, or some part thereof, described in said Mortgage as follows, to wit:

LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH BRANCH, COUNTY OF CRAWFORD, STATE OF MICHIGAN, IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

NORTH 1/2 OF LOT NUMBERED 25, MCNAMARA'S VALLEY SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 68, CRAWFORD COUNTY RECORDS.

which also includes any interest Green Tree Servicing LLC (f/k/a Conesco Finance Servicing Corp.) may have in the 2000 Patriot Mobile Home, Serial Number LPP10867BAIN.

The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of sale unless the property is found to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of sale or fifteen (15) days from the date the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(b) was posted and mailed.

BRANDT, FISHER, ALWARD & ROY, P.C.

Green Tree Servicing LLC (f/k/a Conesco Finance Servicing Corp.)

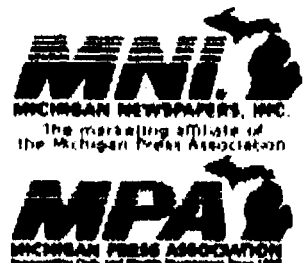
By: DONALD A. BRANDT (P30183)

Attorneys for Mortgagee 1241 E. Eighth Street, P.O. Box 5817 Traverse City, Michigan 49696-5817 (231) 941-9660

Dated: December 15, 2008 -25-1-8-15

PUBLIC NOTICE

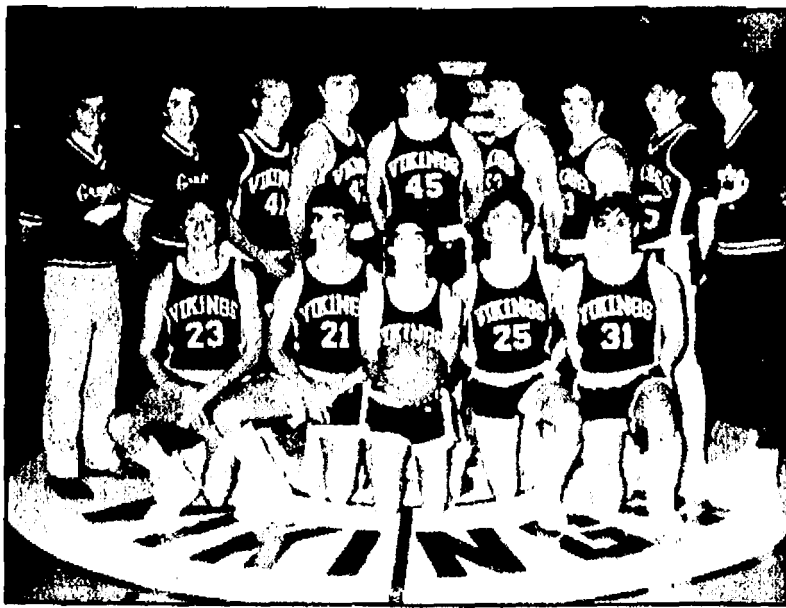
Public Notices in Newspapers. Your Right to Know, Delivered Right to Your Door.



Features

www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com

A LOOK AT OUR PAST FROM THE PAGES OF THE AVALANCHE



December 26, 1985 - Pictured here are the team members of the GHS varsity basketball team (front row L to R): Jeff Palmer, George Duncan, John Meagher, Wayne Casler, David Somerville; (back row) assistant coach Ullery, manager Paul Bobenmoyer, Todd Klinger, Kevin Hudson, Jason McEvers, Todd Hull, Jeff Wolcott, Tom Bacon and coach Hayes.

23 Years Ago December 26, 1985

Robin Anteau, at the corner of Elm and Lake Street, had the winning entry in the annual Christmas Home Decoration Contest sponsored by the Grayling Promotional Association. He won a sketch by Terry Dickinson of the colorful Anteau display of Christmas lights and decorations. The Anteau decorations featured a large lighted Santa about to carry toys down the chimney. Dennis Kuhn of Shaw Park Road won second place and third place was a tie between entries by Kathy Madsen on Molly Lane and Tom Mills of Peninsular

Street. Other top finishers were Lora Gould, Dr. Rosi, Jack Millikin, Alan Peterson, Bob Terry, Richard Brown, Jack Harney, Howard Lehti, Kip Papendick, James Carmean and Homer King. Taking first place in the new business category of the Christmas decoration contest was Cornell Realty.

A five year Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESCC) figure shows unemployment rates for Crawford County dropping significantly. The 1985 projected unemployment rate for the county is 13.5 percent, well below the 1981 rate of 18.2 percent.

46 Years Ago December 27, 1962

Grayling's north end is taking on a newer look as three projects are being worked on. Marshall's Motel has 10 new units built, with the roof, doors and windows installed and the interior about half completed. They expect to have the units open in the spring. The Grayling Oil Company station has been covered outside with porcelainized paneling and a new lobby has been added. The remodeling of Baker's Triangle Motel is about half complete. They will have a new carport, a new roof, new carpeting throughout the interior, a wrought iron railing around the roof and wrought iron pillars around the front of the units. White brick work on the outside will give it a finished appearance.

Mary Kay Duley, Jeanne Sheehy, Mary Lee Marshall, Mary Bobenmoyer, Evelyn Southwell and Sherrie Duffy went Christmas caroling and then returned to Mary Kay's house for hot chocolate.

Construction of 71 new bath-latrines buildings at the State Military Reservation are nearing completion. The \$882,849.40 contract for the bath-latrines, 17 for offices and 54 for enlisted men, is held by Forrester Construction Company of Flint.

69 Years Ago December 28, 1939

From a miniature church erected over the canopy of the Rialto Theatre, bells through a loud speaker chimed out Christmas carols and cheer that were heard all over the city. Beautifully bright Christmas lights surround the church. It was a clever manner in which to spread Christmas cheer, besides being a very lovely decoration.

The new Blue Room at Shoppenagon's Inn's new cocktail lounge will open tonight for business. This promises to be one of the most beautiful of any lounge similar in northern Michigan.

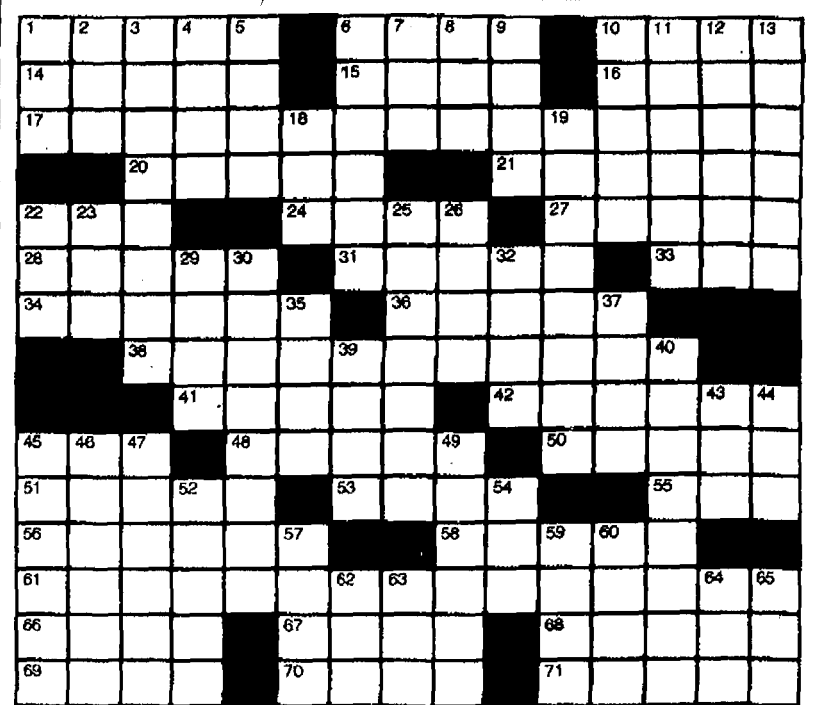
92 Years Ago December 28, 1916

The American House in Frederic is again open to the public. It looks very good to see it lively around there again. J.W. Burke is the new proprietor.

The Michigan Central is erecting a new office building at the roadhouse to take the place of the small building that has long since been outgrown.

A military company has been organized in the high school with W.H. Case as captain and Roy Case as 1st lieutenant. There will be drill practice at the high school for the high school boys.

CROSSWORD



Across

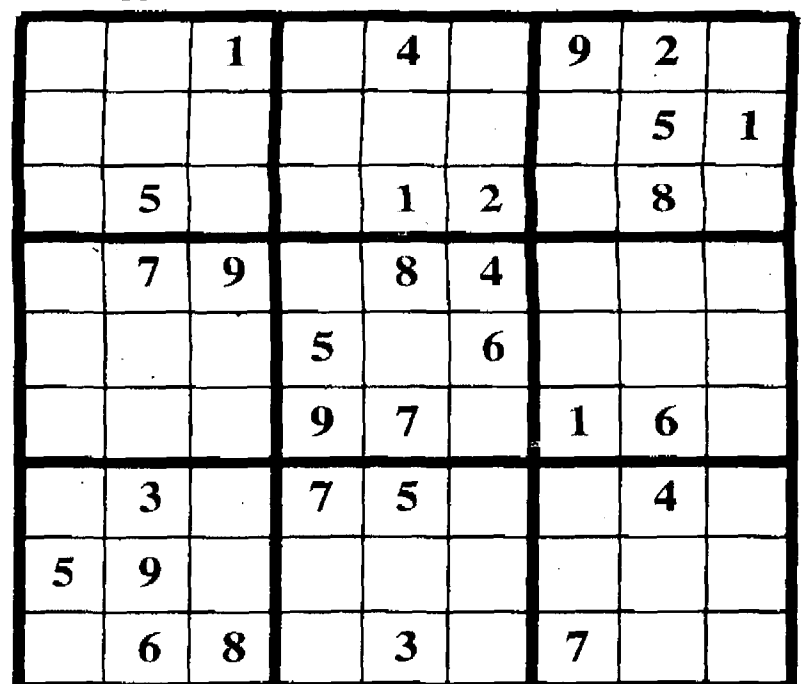
1. Block
6. Hairdo
10. Foot pads
14. Deck out
15. "What's gotten ____ you?"
16. Sundae topper, perhaps
17. English actor best known for his Shakespearean roles
20. Arise
21. Chessman shaped like head of a horse
22. Campaigner, for short
24. Bikini parts
27. Giggle
28. Tracks
31. Ancient manuscript marks
33. "First Blood" director Kotcheff
34. Place of business
36. Overwhelm
38. Ceramicware made of porous clay
41. Scout's mission
42. Flower part
45. Bauxite, e.g.
48. Hit hard
50. Short composition for a solo instrument
51. Gave out
53. Curb, with "in"
55. Auction offering
56. Implant deeply
58. Long heavy knives with a single edge
61. Fertilization by transfer of pollen
66. Belt
67. Cold cuts, e.g.
68. Lifted, so to speak
69. Dangerous biters
70. Auto pioneer Karl
71. Probe that sends information about its environment

Down

2. Victorian, for one
3. Realistic
4. Make, as money
5. Bakery selections
6. "O tempora! O mores!" orator
7. "____ moment"
8. "Am ____ believe ...?"
9. Kind of rock
10. Three-reeler, e.g.
11. In order
12. Tilting laugh
13. Arranged into groups
18. Center
19. Marked by close acquaintance
22. Ace
23. Big galoot
25. Lack
26. Iced, with "up"
29. Pinocchio, at times
30. Top of a container that must be screwed off and on
32. Parts of a code
35. Carve in stone
37. Duff
39. Frost
40. Light-sensitive coating on paper or film
43. Tokyo, formerly
44. After expenses
45. "Potemkin" setting
46. Causes to appear in a new form
47. Cap attachment
49. Make unwanted, intrusive comments
52. Attics
54. "Smoking or ____?"
57. ____ of the Unknowns
59. "O, give me the ____ that has acres o' charms": Burns
60. "Beetle Bailey" dog
62. Linda ____, Supergirl's alias
63. PC linkup
64. Aged
65. Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman

SUDOKU

RULES: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3x3 box.



Generated by <http://www.apogee.ca/~johndelsoftware/sudoku/gen/> on Tue Mar 25 19:22:07 2008 GMT. Enjoy!

(PUZZLE #25 Easy, Difficulty Rating 0.41)

ANSWERS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS



HOROSCOPES

For the week of December 25, 2008.



Relax, Capricorn. Relationships will come full circle with the celebration of miracles big and small. An auto problem is uncovered but fixed with relative ease.

December 22-January 19



Favors of long ago are finally repaid in a most unusual way. Don't say a word. Aries. Just be grateful. A turn of events at home makes a celebration merry.

March 21-April 19



Ugh, Cancer. A friend bails on you again. Before you say or do something you'll regret, find out for certain that they did so intentionally. There may be something else at fault.

June 22-July 22



Geo, Libra. There is so much more to your skill set than meets the eye. Someone in authority will soon realize that and depend upon you more and more.

September 23-October 22



The richest of life's blessings come to you this week, Aquarius, and you adopt a new viewpoint. A slip of the tongue stirs up quite the controversy at work.

January 20-February 18



Leave nothing to chance, Taurus. Go over your to-do list again and again, and make sure you have covered everything. A financial task is completed.

April 20-May 20



Take no prisoners, Leo. Greats are coming, and you will need the help of everyone at home this week to prepare. A shopping trip proves worthwhile.

July 23-August 22



The work of an old friend is acknowledged. Congratulate them on their success, Scorpio, and look to them for inspiration to complete your own masterpiece.

October 23-November 21



Hooray, Pisces! You see a project through, and praise is heaped on you. Enjoy the moment. A long-awaited gift finally arrives but with a puzzling message.

February 19-March 20



Oh no, Gemini! Party plans hit a sour note. Don't worry. Help will come from an unusual source. A memo reveals a real need in the community.

May 21-June 21



Traditions of old are practiced once again. Share your delight with those near and dear to your heart. Virgo. A cooking incident is not the setback it appears to be.

August 23-September 22



Rest assured, Sagittarius. That relative you're counting on for a solution to your dilemma will come through. A celebration at work ends with a flourish.

November 22-December 21

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY.

ADOPT A PET

WE'RE OVERLOADED! The animal shelter is currently very full of animals in need of loving homes, just like yours. Help these very adoptable pets find homes, adopt today!



Jasmine & Barbara

Jasmine says that you should adopt Barbara from the AuSable Valley Animal Shelter because "she gives kisses." Come to the shelter and meet Barbara and many other great pets looking for loving new homes this holiday season. For more information on available animals visit our official web site www.ausablevalleyanimals.org.

Visit us at: www.ausablevalleyanimalshelter.org

AuSable Valley Animal Shelter

5786 Fairground Lane, Grayling

Use the entrance to the Crawford County Fairgrounds.

Hours: Open 10 to 3 pm Monday through Saturday,

10 to 12 pm on Sundays and Holidays

After hour appointments available. Call (989) 348-4117

For more pets or more information, visit our web site www.ausablevalleyanimalshelter.org

RECIPE OF THE WEEK



TANGY PEPPER-PECAN BRIE

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup pecan halves
- 1 jalapeno pepper, stemmed & seeded
- 1/4 cup apricot preserves
- 1 loaf French baguette
- Vegetable oil

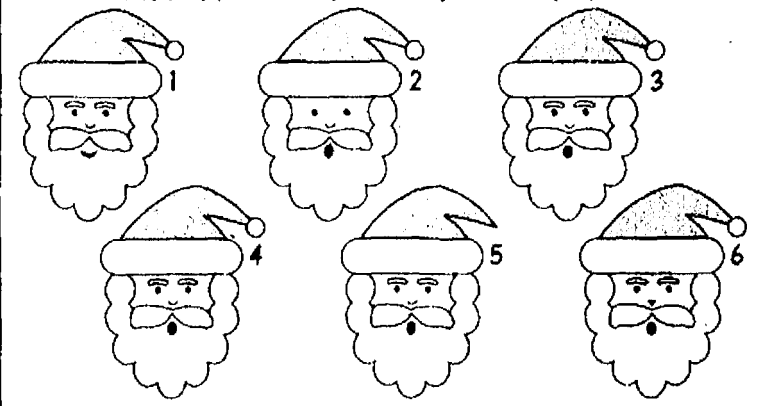
- 4-inch round (8 oz.) Brie cheese with rind, at room temperature

Directions: Preheat oven to 425°F. Coarsely chop pecans and jalapeno. In small bowl, combine jalapeno and preserves; mix well. Cut Brie in half horizontally. Place one half of Brie, cut side up, onto center of large round pan or baking stone. Spread half of the apricot mixture evenly over bottom half of Brie. Top with half of the pecans and remaining half of Brie, cut side up. Spread remaining apricot mixture over Brie; sprinkle with remaining pecans. Cut baguette on a bias into 1/2-inch thick slices. Arrange bread around brie, and spray with vegetable oil. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until bread is golden brown and Brie begins to soften. Remove from oven; let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Makes: 12 Servings

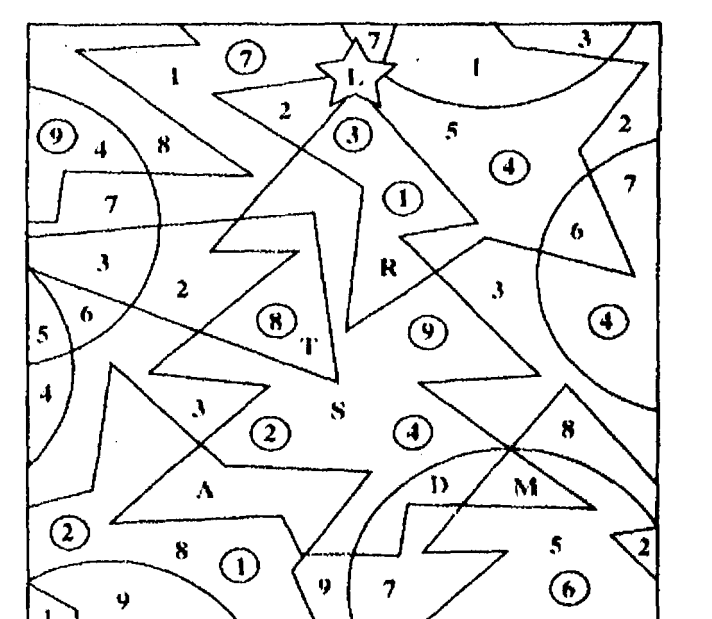
FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER THREE AND FOLD

HIDDEN PICTURE



Color in each space that contains a letter.

WEATHER

Courtesy of the City of Grayling

Last Week

Date	H	L	Snow Inches
12/16	31	6	0
12/17	11	7	3
12/18	22	11	2
12/19	20	0	0
12/20	20	-16	6
12/21	15	-18	5
12/22	18	3	1

Extended Forecast

(Courtesy of the Weather.com)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
High 24	High 27	High 35	High 25	High 26	High 26
Low 18	Low 26	Low 20	Low 16	Low 18	Low 16
Mostly Cloudy	Light Wintery Mix	Wintery Mix	Few Snow Showers	AM Clouds/ PM Sun	Partly Cloudy

Classified

www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com

Classifieds must be paid for in advance
Display Advertising Rate - \$8 per column inch
Deadline for Display Classifieds - Noon, Monday
Classifieds by the word rates - \$6 for 15 words or less, 10¢ per each additional word; includes internet listings: www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com
Classified by the word deadline - Noon, Tuesday



1. Real Estate

MOBILE HOME 2-3 bedroom for sale, owner finance on lot. 989-348-5278 or 586-405-0030. (3/20/08tf/1)

LAKE MARGRETHE Grayling, large waterfront homes, many features. \$284,900. 989-344-1269 or 989-915-9467. (-11-18-25-1/1)

1. Real Estate

2-3 BEDROOM 2 bath, year round ranch in peaceful setting, on maintained road, near lakes and snowmobiling. 2482 sandy Trail, south off M-72, 7.3 miles east of Grayling, price reduced. (586) 446-0004, (586) 713-7500. (6/22/06tf/1)

1. Real Estate

BEAUTIFUL HOME In town of Frederic. Great shape, new carpet, new paint. 4 bedrooms, large yard, 2 car garage, carport, full basement and new appliances. Don't miss this one! \$75,000. Call 989-348-5587. (-18-25/1)

2. For Rent

FOR RENT Very nice one bedroom apartment located at 126 Fulton Street in Grayling. Great view and direct walk out to the AuSable River. \$625 per month includes all utilities. Call Northwood Rentals, 344-8787. (-18-25/2)

2. For Rent

SENIOR APARTMENTS AVAILABLE at The Brook Retirement Communities. Offering Independent and Assisted Living. Lots of amenities, activities, beautiful surroundings and affordable living. Communities located in: Houghton Lake (989) 422-7200, Roscommon (989) 275-4000, West Branch (989) 343-1400, Gladwin (989) 426-8700. Call or stop by today for a personalized tour. (5/10/2007tf/2)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR RENT Lots of parking, stand alone structure and good location. 989-348-8471. (12/4/08tf/2)

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT 3 bedroom, 2 bath, double wide mobile home. \$750 per month, utilities included. In the country, seven miles S.E. of Grayling on Wilderness Trail between 4 Mile Rd. and M-72 E. 989-348-6994 or 989-370-3219. (-11-18-25/2)

3 BEDROOM 2 bath home for rent in Grayling. \$600 a month plus utilities. Option to buy. 989-732-6582. (-18-25/2)

2. For Rent

BIG HOUSE Mobile homes and cabins at Lost Acres. 4 bedroom log home, \$575; 2 bedroom mobile homes, \$375 plus utilities; cabins from \$275 - \$375 with free utilities. 11004 - 11010 N. Old US 27, no pets at all. 1-877-227-6976, more details at www.qualityhomerentals.net (Northern Michigan Units). (11/20/08tf/2)

FOR RENT Efficiency apartment in Frederic. \$375 a month, \$200 deposit. Includes heat, electric, plowing, garbage and cable TV. 348-2137. No pets. (-18-25/2)

TWO BEDROOM 1 bath. Washer and dryer hook up, refrigerator and range included, utilities not included, no pets. \$450 a month plus security. 6272 Old Lake Rd. 989-348-4716. (11/6/08tf/2)

HOME FOR RENT 4 to 6 bedroom, 2 bath executive retreat with outbuildings in Lovells. \$1,200 per month plus utilities. Call 989-732-2600. (7/10/08tf/2)

KITCHENETTE UNITS FOR RENT by the week or month. 989-348-8471. (12/4/08tf/2)

2. For Rent

BEAUTIFUL FULLY FURNISHED Luxury apartment in downtown Grayling on the AuSable River. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Open living room design. \$900 a month plus utilities. Includes all lawn maintenance and snowplowing. 989-370-1290. (10/2/08tf/2)

3 BEDROOM HOUSE \$600 monthly. 989-450-9742. (-11-25-8/2)

NICE 2 bedroom single wide just west of the Manistee River, 15549 West M-72. \$450 per month, \$450 security deposit. 231-342-9726. (-18-25/2)

WORKERS TO SHARE HOUSE and utilities. Call 989-348-3215. (-18-25/2)

3 BEDROOM HOME Near town, quiet road, small one car garage. \$550 a month plus deposit. 989-390-3980. (-18-25/2)

2 BEDROOM HOME 2 bath, nonsmoking and no pets. \$550 a month plus electric. 348-4840. (-25-1/2)

MOBILE HOMES 4 RENT 2 and 3 bedroom, \$425 and up. Also, trailers for sale. 348-5278. (9/28/06tf/2)

3. Employment

SALES TEAM WANTED Training provided, drivers license required and own truck a plus. Paid daily. 989-821-7979. (-18-25/3)

J. DAP Is the place for last minute Christmas gifts! Free gift wrapping! J. Dap will be open Friday, December 19, until 7 p.m. and Christmas Eve until 4 p.m. J. Dap is located at 118 Michigan Avenue in Grayling. (-18-25/3)

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT - GRAYLING, MI Agility Health Inc., a therapist owned company since 1968, has a full-time position available in both inpatient and SNF. Competitive, market-driven compensation and comprehensive benefits. Degree from an accredited Physical Therapy Assistant program required. Email Resumes to brett@agilityhealth.com fax to 800-311-6193 or call 800-876-1041 ext. 5016 for more information. EOE.

HOME AUCTION

9 Northern MI Homes Thursday, Jan 15th at 7pm

From the Ramada Grayling Conference Center, 2650 I-75 Business Loop in Grayling



5201 Chickasaw Ct, Gaylord, 3/2, 2400sf. For local info call Donna Stubenvoll, Century 21 Dunn & Assoc, 989-731-4221

Now is the time to buy low. Whether you want a home to live in or to have as an investment, today's housing market and low interest rates make this the best time to buy! Get your next home at this auction at the price you set with NO STARTING BIDS. Each home features property taxes paid by the seller, no back taxes and no liens.

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Income Restrictions Apply

1. Real Estate

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

Call
Pete Kocenas
Century 21
RIVER COUNTRY REAL ESTATE
989-344-1800
Grayling

Century 21

RIVER COUNTRY REAL ESTATE, INC
5688 M-72 West • Grayling MI 49738

989-348-5474

View all our listings with many photos of each listing on our website:

www.century21grayling.com

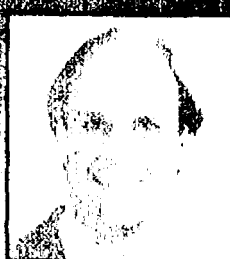


Stunning 4 bedroom home on 1.25+/- acres in a fantastic location, within walking distance to Gerrish Higgins Park, only 2 miles from Higgins Lake North State Park, 2 miles from Roscommon schools, only minutes to I-75 & 127, central location to Grayling & Houghton Lake. Fabulous home features ceramic tile from the foyer to the kitchen & all 3 bedrooms. #6051 \$229,000

RE/MAX
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Grayling

5728 M-72 West
EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED



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Broker/Owner
State Licensed Appraiser



CHARLENE SCHEER
Broker / Owner
Limited Real Estate Appraiser
CRB, GRI, CRS, ABR



GARY BOYD
Associate Broker



FRED FISHER
Sales Agent



KELLY MILLIKIN
Licensed Assistant - Craig



CHELSEA GREEN
Office Administrator



**MERCY HOME CARE
MERCY HOSPICE**

Full Time - RN - HOSPICE - Grayling Office

This position is perfect for the RN who is seeking one on one patient care, positive team environment, and a flexible schedule. In return for your nursing expertise, we provide competitive wages, generous PTO, and a comprehensive benefit package that includes pension and a 403B.

Join a team where you are recognized and valued for your exceptional patient care. At Mercy Home Care and Hospice, we are among the Elite Top 500 Home Care and have been identified as a National Best Practice Agency.

Brenda Lake
Business / Facilities Manager
324 Meadows Drive, Grayling, Michigan 49738
Email: lakeb@trinity-health.org
Direct Phone: 989-344-4402
FAX: 989-348-4380

Mercy Home Care is committed to the Mission and Values as set forth by Trinity Health. Mercy Home Care is committed to workforce diversity and is an equal opportunity employer.



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Full time Nights position available.
ER experience preferred

OR POSITIONS

Current openings for experience
OR nurses.

CCU

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Full time positions available.

OTHER AVAILABLE POSITIONS

ED TECH

Full time positions available, previous EMT experience preferred.

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Recruitment Line (989) 348-0358
Fax (989) 348-0485
E-mail slewis@trinity-health.org
Check our web site at mercyrgrayling.munsonhealthcare.org

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Grayling
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4 Services Offered

SEWING, ZIPPERS, QUILTER Open 6 days a week. (989)348-9349. (-13-27-11-25/4)

RTH HOME IMPROVEMENT all your interior and exterior needs. Garages, additions, drywall, painting, roofing, siding, decks, and more. Licensed and insured, free estimates. Rob Harrington 989-344-1383. (-9/16/04tf/4)

SNOW & ICE REMOVAL off roofs, snowplowing and entranceways cleared. 30 years experience, insured and will travel. Call Jerry 989-348-7046. (-11-18-25-1/4)

4 Services Offered

D. HAWES / Driver's Training: Northern Driving School will be offering classes year-round in Grayling and surrounding areas. The only local driving school in Crawford and Roscommon counties. Segment I \$275, Segment II \$40. 989-344-2470. (05/22/08tf/4)

PROFESSIONAL Roof clearing/snow and ice removal. We protect shingles, pipes and exterior fixtures from damage during clearing. Call anytime 989-390-6172. (-18-25/4)

ROOFTOP SNOW REMOVAL Reasonable rates. Call 989-797-4428. (-25-1/4)

4 Services Offered

TAKE OUT Freshly baked to order, cakes, pies, cookies and assorted desserts. Made to order, homemade soups, casseroles, egg dishes, roasted chicken, Mexican, muffins and breads. Seating for 12 for breakfast, lunch or dinner in formal dining room of beautiful old Victorian folk style house. Also, ladies teas and desserts. Kellie Kitchen, 348-2749. (-4-11-18-25/4)

SNOWPLOWING AND ROOF SHOVELING Reasonable rates and senior discounts, 989-390-1850. (-4-11-18-25/4)

SNOW PLOWING Reasonable rates, Grayling area. 989-390-1367 or 989-745-1850. (-11-18-25-1/4)

SNOW CLEANING Free estimates. 989-348-5813, ask for Tim. (-18-25-1-8/4)

4 Services Offered

KNEE DEEP SNOW REMOVAL Competitive rates for excellent work! Walkways are included in our service. 989-619-6742. (-18-25-1-8/4)

PROFESSIONAL CATERING And DJ services, all Bose equipment, 70,000 plus songs. 989-732-6582, any occasion. (-18-25/4)

BABYSITTING In my home located in town or in your home. I am a qualified caregiver. 989-745-3233 or 989-348-3215. (-18-25/4)

5 For Sale

CABIN LOGS rough sawn lumber, kiln dried lumber, tongue & groove, log siding, custom sawing. T. Warren Sawmill. 989-619-0840. (LR01/29/08/5)

WAKELEY'S FIREWOOD seasoned oak, cut, split & delivered \$55 a cord. Minimum 2 cord. 989-348-7839 or 989-348-8280. (-4-11-18-25/5)

MARTY'S FIREWOOD Oak firewood \$55 per face cord. Also poplar, maple, cherry - for less. Buyers of standing or down timber, 989-390-3930. (-18-25-1-8-15-22/5)

1999 SKI DOO MXZ 600, 2,162 miles with studs and pipes, \$1,800. 231-229-5015. (-11-18-25-1/5)

5 For Sale

PUPPIES FOR SALE Shih-Tzu poodle mix, eight weeks old, one male, one female, shots and wormed. Small lap dogs, great Christmas gift, \$250 or best offer. Call 989-701-5535. (-18-25-1/5)

YAMAHA LS 2000 270 hp jet boat, year 2000. A must see, very low hours. \$10,500 OBO, must sell. 989-344-8802 or 231-624-0107. (11/13/08tf/5)

J. DAP Is the place for last minute Christmas gifts! Free gift wrapping! J. Dap will be open Friday, December 19, until 7 p.m. and Christmas Eve until 4 p.m.! J. Dap is located at 118 Michigan Avenue in Grayling. (-18-25/5)

PISTOLS One S & W semi auto 9 mm, nickel plated clip, holster and 300 rounds, \$450. One Ruger Black Hawk 30 cal. revolver, 10" barrel, \$300. Both in excellent condition, permits required. 989-710-0093 or 989-348-6998. (-25/5)

USED LIFT CHAIR 348-2472. (-25/5)

6 Wanted

WARREN FOREST PRODUCTS Now buying standing timber. Call 989-348-7133 during day and leave a message. Evenings call 231-229-4845, ask for Chan. (LR01/29/08/6)

6 Wanted

BUYING JUNK VEHICLES Price varies with size but will pay the most. Call Don at 231-587-0856 or 888-468-7313. (10/11/07tf/6)

THE CLASSIFIED - The perfect place to find what you want. (989) 348-6811

BUYING SCRAP METAL All grades. SMR 989-275-6041. (10/16/08tf/6)

SNOWBLOWER For 1994 Ranchkin lawn tractor, 18 hp. Write to: Don 2142 Eaton, Grayling, MI 49738. (-18-25/6)

8. Announcements

SPORTSMAN/ANTIQUE /COLLECTIBLE Auction! December 27, 10 a.m. Perry Creek & M-33, Mio. Rittenhouse; art; postcards; quill boxes; military; advertising; watches; sportsman; fishing; hunting; hang & long guns; \$5 gold coin & more! View online or call. Lets Talk Auction! 989-848-5158, www.LetsTalkAuction.com. (-25/8)

CAN'T FIT THE CAR IN THE GARAGE? Sell those extra goodies quick with an ad in Avalanche For Sale Classifieds. Call the Avalanche at (989) 348-6811 for details and more information.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
Saginaw, Michigan

Our Medical Center is currently seeking qualified candidates who are interested in providing care to our growing veteran population. We are currently recruiting for the following positions at the Gaylord, MI Community Based Outpatient Clinic:

Physician, Internist - full time

- Information on how to apply for these positions and other job opportunities may be found at www.usajobs.opm.gov or www.saginaw.va.gov

We offer flexible work schedules, competitive salaries, federal retirement program, life insurance, vacation and sick time earned immediately upon hire for full time permanent employment (every two weeks), health, dental and vision insurance, for self and/or family with many options and continuing education opportunities.

To speak with a specialist regarding exciting employment opportunities or request an application package, please contact:

Human Resources Management Service
1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 497-2500, Ext. 13079

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Categories (Circle One)

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Real Estate | 3. Employment | 6. Wanted | 9. Personals |
| 2. For Rent | 4. Services Offered | 7. Miscellaneous | 10. Garage Sales |
| 2a. Want To Rent | 5. For Sale | 8. Announcements | 11. Automotive |

\$6.00	\$6.10	\$6.20	\$6.30	\$6.40	\$6.50
\$6.70	\$6.80	\$6.90	\$7.00	\$7.10	\$7.20
\$7.40	\$7.50	\$7.60	\$7.70	\$7.80	\$7.90
\$8.10	\$8.20	\$8.30	\$8.40	\$8.50	\$8.60
\$8.80	\$8.90	\$9.00	\$9.10	\$9.20	\$9.30
\$9.50	\$9.60	\$9.70	\$9.80	\$9.90	\$10.00
\$10.10					

CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE BY TUESDAY NOON

8. Announcements

HALL FOR RENT
American Legion Post 106, Grayling, with kitchen. Newly remodeled, smoke free. All occasions. Contact manager 348-7232. (-18-2-16-30-13-27-11-25/8)

8. Announcements

GUN AND KNIFE SHOW
Cadillac, January 3rd and 4th. Wexford Arena, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 22 rifle door prize. J & J Sport Shows. 1-800-968-5016. (-25-1/8)

8. Announcements

PROPANE COST HAS DECREASED We appreciate our customers and effective October 13, 2008, will pass this on to all. This propane decrease includes our customers who previously enrolled in one of our price protection plans. This is subject to change at any time but we will do our best to keep your propane cost down. Thank you for your business. Fick & Sons Inc. (10/16/08tf/8)

J. DAP is the place for last minute Christmas gifts! Free gift wrapping! J. Dap will be open Friday, December 19, until 7 p.m. and Christmas Eve until 4 p.m.! J. Dap is located at 118 Michigan Avenue in Grayling. (-18-25/8)

MIP and anger management programs. GRACE Center, Grayling. 989-348-2544. (10/11/07tf/8)

11. Automotive

CAR DETAILING Let JJ's Motor Mall make your vehicle sparkle inside & out! 348-7710. (5/31/07tf/11)

AUTO GLASS repair and replacement now available at JJ's Auto Glass. 348-7710. (9/29/05tf/11)

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

O	E	T	E	R	C	O	I	F	M	A	T	S
A	R	R	A	Y	I	N	T	O	T	O	R	E
L	A	U	R	E	N	C	E	O	L	I	V	I
E	N	S	U	E	K	N	I	G	H	T		
P	O	L	B	R	A	S	T	E	H	E	E	
R	A	I	L	S	O	B	E	L	I	T	E	D
O	F	F	I	C	E	S	W	A	M	P		
E	A	R	T	H	E	N	W	A	R	E		
R	E	C	O	N	S	T	A	M	E	N		
O	N	E	W	H	A	C	K	E	T	U	D	E
D	E	A	L	T	R	E	I	N	L	O	T	
E	N	R	O	O	T	B	O	L	O	S		
S	E	L	F	P	O	L	L	I	N	A	T	I
S	W	A	T	M	E	A	T	S	T	O	L	E
A	S	P	S	D	E	N	Z	S	O	N	D	E

SUDOKU

7	8	1	3	4	5	9	2	6
2	4	6	8	9	7	3	5	1
9	5	3	6	1	2	4	8	7
6	7	9	1	8	4	5	3	2
3	1	4	5	2	6	8	7	9
8	2	5	9	7	3	1	6	4
1	3	2	7	5	9	6	4	8
5	9	7	4	6	8	2	1	3
4	6	8	2	3	1	7	9	5

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Ski team hits the hills, gets ready for 2009 season

Continued from 1B

"The boys are led by Mike Olson, a returning all-stater. We have good depth overall," Coach Tim Gariglio said. "We're shooting for top three at regionals, which will be tough, because we have two of the top teams in the state in our region."

(The top three teams at regionals advance to the state finals.)

Coach Gariglio said it will be hard to predict how his team will fare in league play because of all the "tough competition we will have to face there."

"They're experienced," Coach Gariglio said. "We're hoping things go our way at regionals."

"The girls will be led by Hannah Smith - also a returning all-stater," Coach Gariglio said. "For regionals, we're aiming for the same goals. Overall, they're a young team with a bunch of sophomores and one freshman. The sophomores are really good skiers. Hannah is an excellent role model for them."

The Vikings started their official practices on Monday, Nov. 17. The team had its first practice at Hanson Hills on Wednesday, Dec. 10. During its time indoors, the ski team did a variety of conditioning exercises, including lifting weights, playing soccer, running, and doing agility drills, Coach Gariglio said.

The team's first meet of the year is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 8, at Boyne Mountain.

The Vikings will host the Grayling Invitational at



Photos by Caleb Casey

Ciara Summers skis for GHS during a recent practice session at Hanson Hills.



Matt Hilbrecht skis at practice on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Schuss Mountain (Bellaire) on Friday, Jan. 16.



Roger Heggie, left, and **Peter Alexander**, right, ride the tow rope at Hanson Hills during practice on Dec. 10.

JV basketball team edges Lake City 33-31 on Wednesday

Continued from 1B

Hali Miller, Haley Wiseman, and Charlie Money added two points each. H. Miller had six rebounds.

On Tuesday night, the Vikings lost 49-9 at Charlevoix.

"We started out bad and got worse in the first two quarters. We did nothing right against a very good team. To compete against a

good team like Charlevoix, you have to play well and cannot turn the ball over, and we did none of that," Coach Hofman said. "We turned the ball over on our first five possessions and Charlevoix scored on every turnover. Bad passing cost us. We handled the pressure, just made bad passes and could not catch the ball. The girls came back a little in the second half and

played with a lot more heart and energy. Not much you can say. Again, we missed a lot of open shots. Just a tough night all-around."

Wiseman, Wakeley, Todoroff, and Hamlin scored points for the Vikings. Hamlin had six rebounds and Jensen had three rebounds.

The Vikings (1-4) will play at Harrison on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Varsity team falls to Lake City

Grayling High School's varsity girls basketball team followed its 48-47 victory vs. Boyne City with a 47-30 loss at Lake City on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Sam Schreiber was Grayling's leading scorer at

Lake City with 12 points. Schreiber's scoring total included three three-pointers. Teresa Schreiber had seven points for the Vikings. Laura Boylan had six rebounds and eight blocks. Abbey Thomas had nine

rebounds. Teanna Zigala had seven rebounds.

Grayling (1-3 overall, 1-0 league) will play in a non-conference game at Harrison on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

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